

John 4:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Analysis

Jesus' agricultural metaphor redirects attention from physical harvest ('four months, and then cometh harvest') to spiritual harvest—the Samaritans approaching are 'white already to harvest.' The fields (Greek: *chōrai*) may literally be the region (Samaria) and the people streaming toward them. God's sovereignty ensures harvest readiness according to His timing.

Historical Context

If this occurred around December-January (four months before Passover harvest), the spiritual harvest contrasts with winter fields. The 'white' may refer to the Samaritans' white garments or sun-bleached grain metaphorically.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do we sometimes assume spiritual harvest follows our expected timeline rather than God's?

2. What 'fields white unto harvest' has God prepared around us that we fail to see?

Interlinear Text

οὐχ ὑμεῖς λέγω ὅτι Ἔτι τετράμηνόν ἔστιν καὶ ὁ
not ye I say There yet four months are and G3588
G3756 G5210 G3004 G3754 G2089 G5072 G2076 G2532

θερισμόν ἔρχεται ἰδού, λέγω ὑμῖν ἐπάρατε τοὺς
harvest then cometh behold I say unto you Lift up G3588
G2326 G2064 G2400 G3004 G5213 G1869

όφθαλμοὺς ὑμῶν καὶ θεάσασθε τὰς χώρας ὅτι λευκαί
eyes your and look on the fields There white G3588
G3788 G5216 G2532 G2300 G5561 G3754 G3022

εἰσιν πρὸς θερισμόν ἥδη
they are to harvest already
G1526 G4314 G2326 G2235

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