

# Revelation 14:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

## Analysis

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The Son of Man with sharp sickle executing earth's harvest represents Christ's role as Judge executing final judgment. The sickle symbolizes separation—reaping wheat (believers) from tares (unbelievers) as taught in Matthew 13:39-43. The earth being 'reaped' indicates comprehensive judgment; none escape. Reformed theology emphasizes Christ as sovereign Judge, executing God's decree of eternal destinies. The imagery recalls Joel 3:13's harvest judgment. The action ('thrust in his sickle') shows decisive execution without delay or partiality. The harvest's ripeness indicates God's perfect timing—judgment comes when iniquity reaches fullness.

## Historical Context

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Harvest imagery pervaded agrarian societies, representing completion and judgment. The sickle symbolized both provision (gathering crops) and separation (cutting). Jesus' parables used harvest to describe final judgment. This vision assured persecuted believers that Christ would execute perfect justice, vindicating the faithful and judging persecutors when the time fully came.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's role as harvester-judge affect your understanding of His compassionate ministry versus His judicial authority?
2. What does the harvest's ripeness teach about God's patience and the certainty of eventual judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἔβαλεν ὁ καθήμενος ἐπὶ τὴν νεφέλην τὸ<sup>ν</sup>  
And thrust in G3588 he that sat G2521 on G3588 the cloud G3588  
G2532 G906 G1909 G3507

δρέπανον αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν καὶ ἐθερίσθη ἡ<sup>ν</sup>  
sickle G846 on G3588 the earth And was reaped G3588  
G1407 G1909 G1093 G2532 G2325

γῆ<sup>ν</sup>  
the earth  
G1093

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 14:19** (Parallel theme): And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

**Revelation 14:14** (Parallel theme): And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.