

Revelation 14:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven,
he also having a sharp sickle.

Analysis

Another angel with a sharp sickle coming from the temple emphasizes that judgment originates from God's presence. The temple represents heaven's throne room where God dwells. This angel executes God's direct command, emphasizing judgment's divine authorization. The second harvest (grapes for winepress) represents wrath specifically, while the first harvest (grain) included both salvation and judgment. Reformed theology distinguishes common grace (delaying judgment) from special grace (saving the elect). This vision shows both—believers harvested to safety, unbelievers gathered for wrath. Multiple harvesters demonstrate judgment's thoroughness.

Historical Context

Dual harvest imagery (grain and grapes) represented complete agricultural cycle and comprehensive judgment. Ancient winepress trampling produced blood-red juice, apt imagery for wrath. Temple origin emphasized divine authority behind judgment. First-century believers needed assurance that persecution would end in just judgment—God would not forget or neglect justice.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does judgment's origin in God's temple (His holy presence) emphasize its moral necessity and righteous character?
2. What does the distinction between grain harvest and grape harvest teach about different aspects of final judgment?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἄλλος	ἄγγελος	ἐξηλθεν	ἐκ	τῷ	ναοῦ	τῷ	ἐν
And	another	angel	came	out of	which	the temple	which	is in
G2532	G243	G32	G1831	G1537	G3588	G3485	G3588	G1722
τῷ	οὐρανῷ	ἔχων	καὶ	αὐτὸς	δρέπανον	ὀξύ		
which	heaven	having	And	he	sickle	a sharp		
G3588	G3772	G2192	G2532	G846	G1407	G3691		

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 16:1 (Temple): And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

Revelation 14:18 (Parallel theme): And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.