

The
PRODIGAL SON
PROPHECY

God's Amazing Plan for the Restoration of the Two
Hebrew Houses and the Salvation of the Gentiles

By Dr. Scott Lively

CHAPTER FOUR:

THE WINEPRESS OF GOD'S WRATH

“And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe” (Revelation 14:15).

“Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great” (Joel 3:13).

The winepress of God's wrath is a metaphor for the punishment of the wicked on the Day of Atonement. It is the final event of the six thousand years of man: a sort-of final house-cleaning before the start of the Millennial Kingdom. It occurs on the last of the 10 Days of Awe.

THE HARVEST OF THE GRAPES

The seven Feasts of the Lord of Leviticus 23 are associated with agricultural harvests in Israel. The Spring Feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits were related to the barley harvest. Christ rose from the dead literally on the Feast of First Fruits: *“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:20)*. Pentecost was associated with the spring wheat harvest, and celebrated by the baking of two loaves of leavened bread representing both Jews and the Gentiles (Judah and Israel) together as the followers of Christ in the newly formed church.

The Fall Feasts of Teru'ah (Trumpets) and Yom Kippur (Atonement) are associated with the fall wheat harvest and the grape harvest respectively.

The harvest of the wheat represents the resurrection and rapture of the Bride of Christ on the Feast of Trumpets. Believers in Christ are the “wheat” (Matthew 13:24-30).

The harvest of the grapes represents the crushing of the wicked beneath the feet of Christ as will be described below.

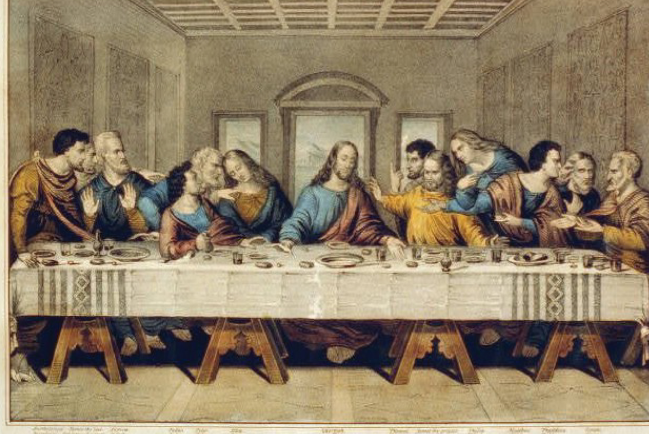
THE LORD'S SUPPER AS A REHEARSAL FOR THE SECOND COMING

*"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death **until he comes.**"*
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

"MY BODY"

Bread
The Fall
Wheat Harvest

Rev 14:15-16
"Then another angel came out of the temple, crying out in a loud voice to the One seated on the cloud, 'Swing Your sickle and reap, because the time has come to harvest; for the crop of the earth is ripe.' So...[he] swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested."



"MY BLOOD"

Wine
The Grape Harvest

Rev 14:17-18
"Then...another angel...called out...'Swing your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the vine of the earth, because its grapes are ripe.' So the angel...gathered the grapes of the earth...and he threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath."

FEAST OF TRUMPETS

10 DAYS OF AWE/WRATH

DAY OF ATONEMENT

"Concerning the feasts of the LORD [Moedim] which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations [Miqra], even these are my feasts [Moedim]" (Leviticus 23:1-2). The Hebrew word *moed* (plural *moedim*) means an appointed day or time. The word *Miqra* means rehearsal.

Facts to Remember:

Both the Fall Wheat Harvest and the Grape Harvest are celebrated in the Fall Pilgrimage of Tabernacles (Sukkot). The ??? associates the Wheat Harvest with the Resurrection and Rapture (Matt 13:24-30, Rev 14:15-16), and the Grape Harvest with the destruction of The Wicked (Rev 14:17-18, Joel 3:13). Tabernacles itself is symbolic of God dwelling with man: The Millennial Kingdom.

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THE LORD'S SUPPER AS A *MOED* FOR THE RAPTURE AND WRATH

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD [Moedim] which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations [Miqra], even these are my feasts [Moedim]" (Leviticus 23:1-2).

To reiterate, the Hebrew word *moed* (plural *moedim*) means an appointed day or time. The word *Miqra* means rehearsal. Thus, the Feasts of the Lord are appointed times designed to be prophetic rehearsals for the first and second coming of Christ. The rituals associated with these holidays identify the clues to their fulfillment. For example, the Feast of Unleavened Bread is celebrated with the *matzah* wafer of unleavened bread, pierced and striped, just as sinless Christ was pierced and striped for our transgressions (Isaiah 53:5). The Hebrew ritual of burying and then resurrecting the "middle *matzah*" in the Passover celebration is a rehearsal for the death and resurrection of Christ (though it is not recognized as such by most Jews).

Jesus established only one ritual for His followers during His earthly ministry: what we call The Lord's Supper, or Communion (Luke 22:14-20). I contend that this ritual is also a *moed* and a *miqra*.

If we consider the bread to represent the wheat harvest (resurrection and rapture) on *Yom Teruah* and the wine to represent the grape harvest (punishment of the wicked) on *Yom Kippur*, we can recognize the Lord's Supper as an appointed time that serves as a rehearsal for His second coming.

THE RETURN OF CHRIST "TO JUDGE AND MAKE WAR"

Before we discuss the winepress, let's first set the stage of the context of Christ's return, looking backward from the Day of Atonement and reviewing some of what we've learned.

On *Yom Teruah* (Feast of Trumpets) Christ had appeared in the clouds to call up the Bride of Christ from the earth:

"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other" (Matthew 24:30-31).

With the righteous then removed, the 10 Days of Awe/Wrath begin, with its series of increasing punishments represented in the Bowl Judgments of Revelation 16: *"Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, 'Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth'" (v.1)*. But the wicked would not repent (v.11) but instead gather to make war against God's Holy City, Jerusalem, as John writes in verses 12-16:

"The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty...Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon."

This is the army of 200 million men (like a plague of locusts on the land), described in Revelation 9:13-21, for, as we have noted above, the bowl judgments are contained within the Sixth Trumpet, like a wheel within a wheel.

From the Valley of Armageddon, the mighty army of the wicked, cursing and blaspheming God, march on Jerusalem. This is described in Zechariah 14:1-5:

"A day of the Lord is coming, Jerusalem, when ...I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight

*against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. **Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle.** On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then **the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.**”*

And in Joel 2:1-2

*“Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand— a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. **Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come.**”*

God’s response to this army of the wicked is the winepress, the harvest of the grapes, but first He rescues the faithful remnant of His people from Jerusalem, just as He rescued His people from Egypt.

THE EXODUS PATTERN IN THE WINEPRESS STORY

In Egypt, God brought 10 plagues against the Egyptians that represented an escalating series of judgments upon them, in a close parallel to the bowl judgments of the 10 Days of Awe. Several of the symbols of the Exodus judgment are repeated during those 10 days: blood (Exodus 7:20, Revelation 16:3-6), frogs (Exodus 8:6, Revelation 16:13-14), sores (Exodus 9:10, Revelation 16:2), darkness (Exodus 10:21, Revelation 16:10-11), etc.

But even more interesting is the parallel of the exodus flight itself. Just as the Hebrews (and others who had chosen to flee with them -- Exodus 12:37-38) were pursued by the wicked Egyptians as they fled eastward, so does a “mixed multitude” flee the City of Jerusalem eastward upon the return of Christ:

“On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley” (Zechariah 14:4-5).

The Lord Jesus, returning with the Host of Heaven, will split the Mount of Olives just as God parted the Red Sea in Exodus 14:21-28.

And just as God collapsed the Red Sea upon the pursuing Egyptians, killing every one of them, so will the Lord Yeshua Hamashiach kill the wicked who pursue His people who flee through the Valley of the Mount of Olives:

“Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle... the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him” (Zechariah 14:3).

This crushing of the wicked by the Lord is the Winepress of Wrath. Watch it unfold in the following passages:

Revelation 19:11-21:

*“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and **in righteousness he doth judge and make war**. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. **And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood**: and his name is called *The Word of God*. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: **and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God**. . . . And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. . . . And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth.”*

This same scene is described with even more detail in Revelation 14:15-20:

*“And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, **Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe**. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 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**. 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. **And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs**.”*

Thus does the Lord of Hosts create a Red Sea of the blood of the very army of the wicked who expected in the depths of their insanity to defeat God by destroying His holy city and His chosen people.