

# **The Harvest**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Sacred Scripture speaks often about “the harvest.” In fact, the word “harvest” occurs 75x in 65 verses in the NASB. The first reference is found in God’s response to the sacrifice that Noah offered after the flood (Gen. 8:20-22). The last reference is in the Book of Revelation, where Christ, the Son of Man, wields His sickle, reaping the earth in judgment (Rev. 14:14-16). In between, there are many passages which speak of the harvest, both in a literal and symbolic fashion.

## **GOD OF THE HARVEST**

The Lord God, Jehovah, is God of the harvest. He is the source of blessings and curses, which are apportioned in response to man’s conduct (Psa. 107:33-38).

## **LABORERS IN THE HARVEST**

Man has a responsibility regarding the harvest. We must be active and industrious, manifesting diligence rather than sloth (Prov. 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 20:4). Let us, therefore, labor for physical provisions (Eccles. 9:10; 11:6; Acts 20:33-35; Eph. 6:5-8; Col. 3:22-24). May we also labor diligently in the Lord’s vineyard, actively spreading the borders of His kingdom (Matt. 9:35-38; Rom. 12:10-13). We should trust in the promises of God, who provides both a physical and spiritual harvest (Isa. 9:1-3; Matt. 4:12-17).

Even in our present age, men dwell in the shadow of darkness, but God’s word provides needed illumination (Psa. 82:5; Prov. 2:1-22). Jesus emphasized the need for workers in sending out the seventy on their limited commission (Luke 10:1-24, esp. vs. 2). Jesus emphasized the importance of the harvest in His encounter with the Samaritan woman, and the inhabitants of the city of Sychar (John 4:7-42, esp. vs. 34-38). The apostle Paul also spoke of a harvest of righteousness in discussing the collection for needy saints (2 Cor. 9:6-15).

## CONCLUSION

Avoiding the tragedy of a lost harvest (Jer. 8:18-22), let us redeem the time (John 9:4; Eph. 5:15-17; Col. 4:5-6). May we be diligent in reference to our own salvation, and also regarding the spiritual needs of others.