

# KING OF THE JUNGLE

## THE LAMB'S LAST CALL

### REVELATION 14:1-20

After eight years of fighting the outcome of the Revolutionary War was settled at Yorktown, Virginia.

The Battle of Yorktown was the last major conflict.

In 1781, British troops under Cornwallis fled the Carolinas, and retreated to Yorktown - to wait on reinforcements. Washington and his Continental Army, along with their French allies, marched south from New York hoping to outnumber and pin down the redcoats.

The siege lasted just three weeks before Cornwallis and his army surrendered to General George.

There were other battles far more decisive - *the Battle of Saratoga... the Battle of King's Mountain...*

But Yorktown was the final nail in the British coffin.

The peace treaty Cornwallis signed allowed for the independence of the Colonies. As the British marched out to surrender, the redcoat's own army band played a ballad entitled, "[The World Turned Upside Down.](#)"

The Battle of Yorktown proved that a major shift in power had taken place. It was obvious now. The British were out. The Colonies were now under new rule.

And this bit of *history* helps us understand the *prophecy* we find in Revelation 14-19. John is now a war correspondent. He's embedded with the troops.

This portion of Revelation covers a strategic battle.

Actually, the whole Bible is a report from the front lines of a deadly conflict. *The Bible is all about a war.*

God put man in charge of His creation - only to watch him lose control of it to Satan. And God wants it back. God has gone to great extremes to redeem what's been His all along. This battle has raged for thousands of years. Call it the *Redemption-nary War*.

Satan leads a revolt against God, while a loving God seeks to redeem, or win back, all that belongs to Him.

There have been battles in this war far more decisive than the conflict we'll study in Revelation 14-19...

There was *The Battle at the Red Sea*... where God saved His people, Israel, from a watery annihilation.

*The Battle at Bethlehem*... there a Savior invaded.

The fierce Battle in the Garden of Gethsemane... where Jesus overcame temptation, and His own betrayer, to confirmed His commitment to the cross.

Then the Battle on Calvary... it was *THE* strategic victory - the Lamb took away the sins of the world.

And the Battle at the Tomb - where Jesus rolled back the stone and conquered death, hell, and the grave.

These were the battles that did the heavy-lifting - these are the victories that will ultimately win the war.

But the Battle in Revelation 14-19 - what we call the Battle of Armageddon - like the Battle at Yorktown - is the final battle. Here the Victor becomes obvious.

At this final battle Satan is revealed - for what he was all along - *the usurper, the thief, the squatter* - the one who dared to take occupancy without ownership.

Armageddon is the battle where Jesus returns to Earth - evicts the devil - and retakes possession of the planet. At this final battle Jesus ends mankind's coup d'that - and boots the devil out on his pointed-ear.

It's only a matter of time before Jesus returns to establish His kingdom and authority over planet Earth.

If you've been reading the war reports filed from Genesis to Revelation, you realize the final Battle in Chapters 14-19 is really a forgone conclusion! Yet when it actually happens it's stunning - it's climactic.

In fact, these chapters spotlight the star players in this battle... If you cut chapters 11-14 out of Revelation it'd be like watching a football game without a program.

You'd enjoy the *action* - but you couldn't identify the *players*. You'd know the *what*, but not the *who*!

Revelation gives us "the roster of the end times."

**The Rebel forces** include the dragon - the beast - his accomplice (*the false prophet*) - their headquarters, the city of Babylon - and a false religious system John refers to as "**the great whore**" (*not a flattering term*).

Whereas **God's troops** - call them "**His Witnesses**" - include 144,000 Jews, two Jerusalem prophets, three angelic messengers, One like the Son of Man Who's carrying a sharp sickle, and the armies of heaven.

If you recall, Chapter 13 focused on the bad guys - particularly *the Beast*. Like any good roster it even gave us his number... **666**... Whereas, chapter 14 lists God's team... That's what we'll investigate today...

And it's only fitting that the first person listed on God's team is *our best player, our captain, our coach, our general manager, our team owner, our everything all rolled*

into one. John begins chapter 14, “Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion...”

*John sees Jesus!* After all, John’s vision - this book - is the Revelation of Jesus Christ... not the revelation of the lamps, or the Beast, or the whore, or the seals, or 666. All too often we get caught up in peripherals and we miss Jesus. This book is about the glory of Jesus.

Jesus is no longer the humble Galilean preacher who walked dusty trails in first century Israel. He is now “King of kings and Lord of lords.” He’s been glorified and exalted, and today all creation is under His feet.

Jesus is the Lamb that roars like a Lion, and He is the Lion that bears the scars of a sacrificial lamb.

Here John sees the Lamb, but notice *His posture and the place...* He’s “standing on Mount Zion.”

That Jesus is “standing” tells us a lot. In Hebrews 1:13 we’re told what the Father God says to His Son Jesus, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool...” Well, for nearly 2000 years now that’s where Jesus has been - sitting at God’s right hand.

But here He “stands to His feet!” He stretches his legs. He flexes His muscles. Jesus is finally ready to stride, and ride, and make war with this wicked world.

The Lamb stands to His feet and prepares for battle.

And notice where Jesus stands? He's "*on Mount Zion.*" Mount Zion is one of several hills that make up the city of Jerusalem. It's where David built his capital.

Over time "*Zion*" became the name for the entire city.

Here John sees the Lamb standing in Jerusalem. He's standing in the place of kings. His intent is to rule.

And it's no accident that He's returned to the scene of the crime. Jesus Christ was crucified in Jerusalem.

And this is God's issue with this rebel planet. The world mocks, and scoffs, and neglects, and despises *the cross*. Jesus sacrificed His life - laid it down for us. *He bled for us, why aren't we willing to be led by Him?*

Don't get upset when this chapter speaks of Hell, and blood, and judgment. What would you think if you sacrificed your son for me, and I spit in his face?

God is just and righteous in all He does.

Revelation 14:1 is such a powerful picture... This needs to shape how we see Jesus... One day soon, our Lord will stand where He once was slaughtered.

He'll be glorified where He was crucified.

He'll be worshipped where He was hated.

He'll rule from a throne where He hung on a tree. Where Jesus showed mercy, He'll establish justice.

*When you think of the Jesus in your future - the Jesus everyman will meet, and face, and bow before...*

Don't think of Mary's infant. Jesus **was** a baby born in Bethlehem - and His coming teaches us much about God's love. But don't leave Jesus cooing in a manger.

*When you think of the Jesus in your future...*

Don't think of Jesus hanging on the cross. The sin of the world **was** laid on His shoulders. The Lamb of God was bound to the altar, but He's no longer on the cross.

*When you think of the Jesus in your future...*

Don't think of Jesus outside His own tomb, coming and going and surprising His disciples with the reality of His resurrection. That only occurred for forty days.

*When you think of the Jesus you'll face one day...*

Think of John's Revelation. John sees the Lamb - *not in a manger, or tied to an altar, or even by the empty tomb*. He sees Jesus standing in His regal glory, on Mount Zion, where the kings of Israel once reigned.

When Jesus stands it means He puts His foot down!

One day, Jesus will right all wrongs. He'll subdue a world gone mad. He'll crush any and all resistance.

Psalm 2:9 looks forward to this scene in Revelation. God says, “I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.”

Psalm 102:13 speaks of this same day and the same event, “You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes, the set time, has come.” There’s “a *set time*” for the Lamb’s return. The clock is ticking!

We’re grateful for Jesus’ first coming. He offers us forgiveness, and joy, and peace with God. But the Jesus of the future will make no offers... *only demands*.

This is why before Armageddon, the final battle, Jesus is going to orchestrate one final Gospel push.

We learned in Revelation 7 that the greatest spiritual awakening the world has ever seen is yet to come.

Today, Jesus leans on us, His Church, to spread the good news of salvation. But when the Church is raptured - *and by this point, it has been* - He resorts to other methods to get out the final offer of His pardon.

That’s what this chapter is all about - you could refer to Revelation 14 as, “**the last chance chapter.**”

To the very end, the Lamb of God has a heart for the nations. He wants to see every man and woman saved. This is why He issues a “**last call**” for a drink of salvation... *And Chapter 14 identifies His messengers.*



And first up... there was “with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.” We met these guys in chapter 7. They were Jews - 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes.

And they're marked with the Father's name.

When I was 10 years old I went to football camp in the summer, and mom would always write my name in my underwear. *You can share soap, and T-shirts, and even toothbrushes... but you don't share underwear!*

Mom knew a cabin full of 10 year old boys gets chaotic. That's why she wrote my name on the elastic band, so everyone knew which underwear was mine.

And that's what God does in the last days. It'll be crazy days in cabin Earth, so God writes His name on these 144,000 followers. God's enemies know that they belong to God. It's protection. This makes them indestructible witnesses - *super sharers of the Gospel.*

Remember at the end of chapter 13, folks who worship the beast have their allegiance sealed with a mark in their right hand or forehead. The number 666.

*Here's the godly antithesis.* These witnesses are bolder in their righteousness than the devil is with his rebellion. Their allegiance is sealed - not with a mere number on their forehead - *but with God's holy name.*

Verse 2, “And I heard a voice from heaven...” The scene now shifts from Mount Zion back to heaven.

John hears a voice “like the voice of many waters (or a roaring waterfall), and like the voice of loud thunder (the boom of a thunderclap). Recall, in chapter 1 this is how John described the voice of Jesus. He speaks with authority. His voice drowns out all other opinions.

“And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.” The Lamb and 144,000 witnesses are standing on Mount Zion... *So who is this singing in heaven?*

These are probably folks who believe in Jesus during the Great Tribulation and are martyred for their faith.

Only the 144,000 can relate to what they’ve endured. It’s fitting they’re the only ones who sing their song.

Remember earlier in chapter 6, the fifth seal opens and we see this same group under the altar, asking, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

These future believers are asking what we ask at times... *Why does the evil doer get away with His crimes? Why is Satan allowed to harm God's people? How long will God allow this push-back and injustice?*

I was thinking about it this week... If life always went smoothly there'd be no need to trust God. Faith would be easy, and whatever faith we did develop would be lame and weak. For faith to have muscle there needs to be resistance - push-back from the evil in the world.

Right now we struggle. We cry to God, "how long?"

Yet the day is coming when Jesus puts an end to the resistance. He'll turn a topsy-turvy world right-side-up.

That's what John is seeing in Revelation 14... "*The set time*" has come, and the believers alive in that day will sing a new song! The people who sing this song in heaven are those who are saved in the day of God's wrath. They will have endured great persecution, but Jesus will see to it that their suffering turns to singing.

Realize, the vast majority of heaven's population will be those taken up in the rapture... *believers alive at the time, or the dead in Christ who await the resurrection.*

But there'll be a special subgroup in heaven - those who come to faith in the midst of God's judgment.

The Church is delivered from such a fate. That's why only the 144,000 Jewish witnesses can sing their song.

And John says of the 144,000, “These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins.”

Apparently, these witnesses are men on a mission.

They don't have time for marriage, or family - and its concerns. *How could you celebrate an anniversary or coach Little League while God judges the world?*

*God will be making a last call...* The eternal destiny of all mankind will hang in the balance. God's witnesses will need to be single-minded. They've taken the pledge to only preach! That has to be their priority.

Again, this is why the 144,000 - not the Church - are the only souls who know the song of the Tribulation believers. This is *a different day - different conditions...*

John adds, “These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.” Wow! Surely, the 144,000 live at a different time and minister under different conditions - but this is something that should be true of us all!

*We need to follow the Lamb wherever He goes!*

I like this poster... Jesus tells the guy, “No I'm not talking about Twitter, I literally want you to follow Me.”

Verse 4, “These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.” These 144,000 Jewish witnesses were saved at the beginning of God's

last call. They were the first fruits of this final harvest. Now they're leading others to salvation...

“And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.” These men are true blue - *impeccable witnesses in perilous times*.

It's like in baseball - your best pitcher is your closer. Here God raises up an army of closers for a last *call*.

But that's not *all*. That's not God's only method of end times' broadcasting... As the clock winds down - and time runs out - the Lamb pulls out all the stops...

Verse 6, “Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth - to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people - saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

And this should speak volumes to you and me.

One day God will use angels to proclaim the good news. Angels are bold, obedient, accurate, powerful.

I'll bet an angel has never chickened out at an opportunity to share his faith with a co-worker... Angels are never too busy to reach out to a new neighbor...

And I'm sure angels are far more efficient communicators than today's best preacher or witness.

Yet for the moment God has chosen us to be His spokespeople. Jesus loves us and wants us to share in the joy of seeing other people come to know Him.

Apparently, *God sees value in using folks saved by grace to share His grace.* I suppose we have one advantage over angels... Angels are good *salesmen*.

They preach grace, but they've never tasted grace.

We on the other hand aren't as much *salesmen* as we are *satisfied customers*. Though far less efficient, perhaps we're more effective. Our lives are proof of God's amazing grace. *We share what we've savored!*

Yet once the Church goes up, God will use angels.

Like the airplane that pulls the banners over Turner Field during a Braves game - the angel in verse 6 flies through the heavens preaching the everlasting gospel.

The Lamb's last call goes out through the 144,000 Jews, and the two witnesses, and now three angels...

Verse 8, *"And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."* As Jerusalem will be the headquarters of God's Kingdom on Earth, Babylon has always been Satan's headquarters. *The Bible is a tale of two cities.*

And here this second angel proclaims the crumbling of Satan's empire... *The devil's days are numbered. The final battle looms. The revolt is about to be over.*

We'll talk more about Babylon in chapter 17.

Verse 9, "Then a third angel followed them..."

And you should notice the progression of the messages of these angels... The first angel shared **God's salvation**. The second, **Satan's devastation**. Now the third angel warns of **the sinner's destination**...

This angel is "saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation."

Usually, God tempers His judgments with mercy, but not here. People who resisted the witness of the Church, *and now God's last call*, are sentenced to the "full strength" - 100 proof - undiluted wrath of God.

And apparently the final straw is when they receive the mark of the Beast in their forehead or in their hand.

Whether it's a barcode, or microchip, or vein scan, or infrared tattoo, or a technology not yet invented - it'll be associated with the worship and homage of a last days' ruler who'll set himself up in place of Christ.

That's why he goes by the title "Anti-Christ."

Realize it's not that cashless commerce or high-tech identification is evil - not so. It's actually convenient.

But this is the technology that Satan will confiscate and use it to blackmail the world into worshipping Him.

Whatever form all this assumes I believe people will know what they're doing... They'll be afraid. *How will they feed their family without this mark? As we learned in chapter 13 the mark will be the means to buy bread.*

So to insure their own survival - and in many cases that of their kids - they'll pledge allegiance to the anti-Christ. They'll sell their soul to satisfy their stomachs.

And God will take this as a dagger in the back. This is mankind's final rejection of His grace and mercy.

This third angel warns... "He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Until now John's vision has shown us *the glories of Heaven - God's judgments on Earth* - and now John gets a glimpse of *the torments of Hell...*

The reality of Hell is the message of this third angel.



Yet Hell isn't a message we hear a lot about today. Some churches downplay the idea of a literal Hell.

It's been said, "The world today is so concerned with Left and Right, we've neglected the Above and Below."

Hey, just because folks today like to be politically correct... just because they're squeamish and lack the stomach for a literal Hell... don't think God shares that attitude. God makes Hell the topic of this third angel.

AW Tozer once wrote, "The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly opiate for the consequences of millions."

Once, a pastor was preaching passionately when he noticed that one of his congregation had fallen asleep.

He decided to make an example out of the ole boy so he *whispered*, "Everyone who wants to go to heaven stand up." Everyone but the sleeper stood...

Then the pastor *shouted*, "Everyone who wants to go to hell stand up." The pastor's loud voice startled the sleeper. He jumped up to see what was going on.

Once he got his wits about him, he said to the pastor, "Preacher, I don't know what we're voting on, but it looks like you and I are the only ones in favor of it."

Understand, Jesus isn't in favor of anyone going to Hell. 2 Peter 3:9 tells us He's "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance..."

In Matthew 25 Jesus tells us that Hell was created for the devil and his angels - *not for humans made in God's image*. People who go to Hell choose their destination by refusing to live under Jesus' authority.

While on Earth Jesus wasn't the least bit hesitant to warn people about Hell. Did you know Jesus spoke more about Hell than He did Heaven? He doesn't want anyone to miss the train to Heaven, and end up in Hell.

Here the third angel warns the Earth's inhabitants about the tortures of Hell... Folks in Hell are *"tormented with fire and brimstone..." "The smoke of their torment ascends forever..." "They have no rest day or night..."*

A man mows his lawn on a hot, muggy summer afternoon. He comes inside for some ice water, and says to his wife, *"Man, it's hotter than Hell."* *No it's not!*

I'm not sure where the Jews got their information, but the Jewish Talmud reads, *"The fire of Hell is sixty times as hot as the fire on earth."* Here we're told people in Hell are torment *by fire, by hot coals, by stifling smoke*.

In verse 10 the Greek word translated *"brimstone"* refers to sulphur flashes. The New English Bible translates the term *"brimstone"* as *"sulphurous flames."*

Think of the flash-pots at a rock concert. Those mini-explosions are caused by a sulphur ignition. Burning sulphur gives off a blazing flame - and a noxious odor.

Hell is like living in the mouth of an erupting volcano.

The heat is unbearable. Flames blister and burn. Layers of smoke cause acute suffocation. Everyone in hell will grope for air like an asthma sufferer! You think the smog is bad in Los Angeles – *Hell is smog central!*

And notice the punishment is *eternal*. “*The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever...*” Is it any wonder Hell’s residents “*have no rest day or night...*”

This is certainly the picture Jesus painted in Luke 16 of a rich man who died and went to hell. The rich man cries out to heaven, “*Have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*”

This man’s tongue was use to the finest wines, now he’s denied a single drop of water. His lips are cracked, his body dehydrated, there’s no relief from his agony.

Some people doubt the literalness of the tortures of hell. They assume Jesus is speaking metaphorically.

But the same folks never question the reality of the streets of gold, and banquets, and the wiping away of all tears, and pleasure forevermore. *If we assume the joys of Heaven are real, why not the agonies of Hell?*

And certainly, there’ll be “*no rest*” for those in Hell.

Hell is like constant rush hour traffic... Hell is a hemorrhoid attack in a world without Preparation H...

Hell is like an argument with your spouse that never ever quits... Hell is a panic attack that never ends...

And there's no Prozac in hell! There's no artificial pick-me-ups. Everybody in hell is stressed, depressed.

And everyone in hell is mourning over what could've been. It's been said, "One of the horrors of hell is the undying memory of a misspent life." Hell's inhabitants are tortured by remorse. Their status never changes.

In Dante's "Inferno," the author makes the sign over Hell read, "He who enters here abandons all hope."

And the worst of Hell's torments is that it all occurs, and I quote, "*in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb...*" I interpret that to mean while folks agonize in hell they're aware of what's happening in heaven.

It's like the one-way glass between the sanctuary and the prayer room. Those behind the mirror see us, but we can't see them. This is like hell. You'll be able to see into heaven - but heaven won't see you.

Hell's residents will spend eternity gawking at all they've missed out on. They'll see the party – the feasting – the joy! Folks in hell will try to forget what could've been - and just about the time they've driven the blessings from their mind - they'll look up and see another party gearing up in the presence of the Lamb.

This third angel warns the world of a literal Hell. He along with the Lamb doesn't want anyone to go there...

Verse 12, "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." There is no rest for those in Hell, but those who put their faith in Jesus will rest with the Lord forever.

Heaven is like a quiet afternoon in the hammock... with your phone on silent - *it's rest...* for all eternity.

This is why we need to get busy right now - *serving the Lord, telling our friends about Jesus, letting our light shine...* Realize, we'll have all eternity to rest, but we only have a few short hours left to do God's will.

I've talked about Hell today... And I need to ask you, *do you believe in Hell? Really?* Don't say you do, then walk off smugly and go about your everyday business.

If you believe in a literal Hell - *even if you're not headed there* - I'll bet you know someone who is...

How can you be nonchalant? Don't you feel compelled to speak to them - to love them - to try and win a hearing where you can talk to them about Jesus?

If we really believe in Hell, we'll talk up Jesus!

Verse 14, “Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.” Here’s King Jesus... carrying a swing blade.

And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

Verse 16, “So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.”

This is the final harvest. Just before the last battle, one final surge of souls will give their lives to Jesus.

In Matthew 13 Jesus told [a parable about the tares and the wheat](#). The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed seed, but one night an enemy came into his field and planted tares or weeds among the wheat.

No one knew what the enemy had done until the crop sprouted and you could see the weeds growing alongside the wheat. The workers wanted to uproot the weeds, but the owner knew if you pull weeds too soon you can damage the wheat... the workers needed to wait. The separation could occur at the harvest time.

There’s no need for us to guess at the meaning of the parable. For Jesus provided us the interpretation...

"He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" In Revelation 14 the parable gets fulfilled.

At this point in the Great Tribulation the end is near.

And Jesus thrusts in His sickle. It's time to separate the wheat from the weeds - *believers from unbelievers.*

The harvest of souls has come. At His first coming Jesus sowed. When He returns He'll harvest the crop.

His first pass over the field brings in the believers.

But the second thrust of the sickle is an act of judgment, "Then 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, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle



and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." Spiritually speaking sin and rebellion is like fruit. It hangs from a person's life, until it goes too far, and you become ripe for judgment.

Today, the evil of mankind is ripening - and when mankind finally goes too far - at the end of the age - Jesus will return and thrust in His sickle of judgment.

This is what happens in verse 19, "So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God." Grapes are crushed and squished in the winepress. They're often stomped. And in the Bible "*the great winepress*" is an idiom for God's judgment.

In John 15:1 Jesus said, "I am the true vine..." In contrast, here "*the vine of the earth*" is judged by God.

Thus, the question for us becomes from which vine are we hanging. Are we growing in Christ, or are we hanging out with this world. Hang onto the wrong vine and you'll be crushed in the winepress of God's wrath.

Verse 20, "And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs."

Notice, it's not wine that results from this pressing, it's blood. Jesus crushes the rebels who defy His rule.

And here He has an actual time and place in mind...



Remember the context of *the Lamb's last call...* It leads to the final battle. At [the Battle of Armageddon](#) the blood of evil men will fill up a valley 1600 furlongs, or 200 miles long. Blood will rise to the horse's bridle.

By the way, 200 miles is the approximate length of the holy land - from the Golan to the Dead Sea.

John foresees the day when the valleys of Israel, and particularly the one outside Jerusalem - *perhaps* [the Kidron](#) - will become a blood-stained battlefield.

When the third day of fighting ended at Gettysburg 57,000 soldiers lay dead. A reporter referred to Gettysburg as "[The Harvest of Death.](#)" It was one of the bloodiest battles in the bloodiest war in American history. The battlefield was turned into a cemetery.

And the carnage at Gettysburg pales in comparison to what'll happen in this final battle. Jesus will wield His sickle. He's given us ample warning. The wheat must be separated from the weeds... *Which one are you?*