

10-D The Harvest

The Bible uses illustrations from natural life to teach spiritual principles. One of the most common of these centers around the harvest of planted crops, including grains, grapes, figs, olives, etc. The scripture abound with such allegories.

1. **GEN 8:22** “While the earth remains, Seedtime (*zera*) and harvest (*qatsiyv*), Cold and heat, Winter and summer (*qayits*), And day and night Shall not cease.”
2. **JER 8:20** “The harvest (*qatsiry*) is past, The summer (*qayits*) is ended, And we are not saved!”
3. **MAT 9:37** Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest (*therismos*) truly is plentiful, but the laborers (*ergates*) are few. 38 “Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest (*therismos*) to send out laborers into His harvest (*therismos*).”
4. **MAT 13:24** Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 “but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 “But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 “So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ 28 “He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ 29 “But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 ‘Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ” 36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “**EXPLAIN TO US THE PARABLE OF THE TARES OF THE FIELD.**” 37 He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 “The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 “The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 “Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 “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, 42 “and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 “Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!
5. **MAR 4:26** And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter SEED on the ground, 27 “and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 “For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 “But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”
6. **JOH 4:34** Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work (*ergon*). 35 “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest (*therismos*)’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white (*leukos*) for harvest (*therismos*)! 36 “And he who reaps (*therizo*) receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal (*aionios*) life (*zoe*), that both he who sows (*speiro*) and he who reaps (*therizo*) may rejoice together. 37 “For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38 “I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”
7. **LUK 8:5** “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 “Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. 7 “And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. 8 “But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” 9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” 10 And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’ 11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 “Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 “But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. 14 “Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 “But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.
8. **GAL 6:7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows (*speiro*), that he will also reap (*therizo*). 8 For he who sows to his flesh (*sarx*) will of the flesh reap corruption (*phthora*), but he who sows to the Spirit (*pneuma*) will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall REAP (*therizo*) if we do not lose heart.
9. **REV 14:14** 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. 15 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.” 16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. 17 Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 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.” 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. 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.

Rain Is Necessary Before Planting and to Mature the Harvest

10. **PSA 65:10** You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth.
11. **JOB 29:23** They waited for me as for the rain, And they opened their mouth wide as for the spring rain.
12. **JER 14:4** Because the ground is parched, For there was no rain in the land, The plowmen were ashamed; They covered their heads.
13. **JOE 2:23** Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the Lord your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you—The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month.

Ploughing is Necessary to Prepare the Ground and Bury the Seeds Sown

14. **NUM 19:2** “This is the ordinance of the law which the Lord has commanded, saying: ‘Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring you a red heifer without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which a yoke has never come.
15. **DEU 22:10** “You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.
16. **PRO 20:4** The lazy man will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and have nothing.
17. **ISA 2:4** He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.
18. **ISA 5:10** For ten acres (Heb ‘ten yoke’) of vineyard shall yield one bath, And a homer of seed shall yield one ephah.”
19. **ISA 13:20** But all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to sharpen each man’s plowshare, his mattock, his ax, and his sickle;
20. **JER 28:13** “Go and tell Hananiah, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord: “You have broken the yokes of wood, but you have made in their place yokes of iron.”
21. **JDG 3:31** After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel.
22. **JOE 3:10** Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’
23. **MAT 11:28** “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 “For My YOKE is easy and My burden is light.”
24. **LUK 9:62** But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to THE PLOW, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
25. **ACT 26:14** “And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the GOADS.’
26. **2CO 6:14** Do not be UNEQUALLY YOKED together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

Planting Requires Faith

27. **GEN 26:12** Then Isaac SOWED in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him.
28. **LEV 25:3** ‘Six years you shall SOW YOUR FIELD, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit;
29. **ECC 11:4** He who observes the wind will not SOW, And he who regards the clouds will not REAP. 5 As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything. 6 In the morning SOW YOUR SEED, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike will be good.
30. **PSA 126:5** Those who SOW in tears Shall REAP in joy. 6 He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his SHEAVES with him.
31. Parable of Sower – see **MAT 13:3-8, MAR 4:3-8, LUK 8:5-8**

The Grain Harvest

32. **DEU 16:9** “You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. (‘counting the omer’ to Pentecost)
33. **JOE 3:13** Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow—For their wickedness is great.” 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.
34. **ISA 9:3** You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of HARVEST, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.
35. **EXO 23:16** “and the FEAST OF HARVEST, the FIRSTFRUITS of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the FEAST OF INGATHERING at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.
36. **JOS 3:15** and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest),

Enemies of the Grain

37. **MAT 13:25** “but **while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat** and went his way.
38. **MAR 4:4** “And **it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.**
39. **EXO 22:6** “**If fire breaks out and catches in thorns, so that stacked grain, standing grain, or the field is consumed, he who kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.**
40. **JDG 15:4** Then **Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches, turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails.** 5 When he had set the torches on fire, **he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves.**
41. **DEU 28:38** “**You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it.**
42. **PSA 78:46** **He also gave their crops to the caterpillar, And their labor to the locust.**
43. **JOE 2:25** “**So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,** The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.
44. **JDG 6:3** **So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.**

Cutting and Transporting the Grain

45. **JER 50:16** **Cut off the sower from Babylon, And him who handles the sickle at harvest time.** For fear of the oppressing sword Everyone shall turn to his own people, And everyone shall flee to his own land.
46. **JOE 3:13** **Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.** Come, go down; For **the winepress is full, The vats overflow—For their wickedness is great.**”
47. **AMO 2:13** “Behold, I am weighed down by you, **As a cart full of sheaves is weighed down.**
48. **PSA 129:7** With which the reaper does not fill his hand, Nor **he who binds sheaves,** his arms.
49. **SON 7:2** Your navel is a rounded goblet; It lacks no blended beverage. **Your waist is a heap of wheat Set about with lilies.**
50. **GEN 37:7** “**There we were, binding sheaves in the field.** Then **behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.**”
51. **GEN 42:26** So **they loaded their donkeys with the grain** and departed from there. 27 But as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey feed at the encampment, he saw his money; and there it was, in the mouth of his sack.

Threshing the Grain

52. **RUT 2:17** So **she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned,** and it was about an ephah of barley.
53. **JDG 6:11** Now **the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree** which was in Ophrah, **which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.**
54. **ISA 41:15** “Behold, **I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; You shall thresh the mountains and beat them small, And make the hills like chaff.**
55. **ISA 28:27** For the **black cummin is not threshed with a threshing sledge,** Nor is a cartwheel rolled over the cummin; But the **black cummin is beaten out with a stick,** And the cummin with a rod. 28 Bread flour must be ground; Therefore he does not thresh it forever, Break it with his cartwheel, Or crush it with his horsemen.
56. **DEU 25:4** “**You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.**
57. **ICO 9:9** For it is written in the law of Moses, “**You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.**” Is it oxen God is concerned about?
58. **1TI 5:18** For the Scripture says, “**You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,**” and, “**The laborer is worthy of his wages.**”

Winnowing the Grain

59. **RUT 3:2** “Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, **he is WINNOWING barley tonight at the threshing floor.**
60. **PRO 10:5** **He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.**
61. **JER 15:7** **And I will WINNOW them with a WINNOWING FAN in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children; I will destroy My people, Since they do not return from their ways.**
62. **PSA 1:4** **The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.**
63. **ISA 5:24** Therefore, **as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the CHAFF, So their root will be as rotteness, And their blossom will ascend like dust;** Because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.
64. **MAT 3:12** “**His WINNOWING FAN is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the CHAFF with unquenchable fire.**”

Sifting the Grain

65. **AMO 9:9** “For surely I will command, And will sift the house of Israel among all nations, AS GRAIN IS SIFTED IN A SIEVE; Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground. 10 All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, Who say, ‘The calamity shall not overtake nor confront us.’
66. **LUK 22:31** And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he MAY SIFT YOU AS WHEAT. 32 “But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”
67. **LEV 26:33** I will SCATTER you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. 34 Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies’ land; then the land shall rest and enjoy its Sabbaths.
68. **JAM 1:1** James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are SCATTERED abroad: Greetings.

Storing the Grain

69. **1KI 17:12** So she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of FLOUR IN A BIN, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” 14 “For thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘The BIN OF FLOUR shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’ ” 16 The BIN OF FLOUR was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah.
70. **DEU 28:8** “The Lord will command the blessing on you in your STOREHOUSES and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.
71. **MAT 3:12** “His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His WHEAT INTO THE BARN; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”
72. **PRO 3:10** So your BARNS will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.
73. **LUK 12:18** “So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my BARNS and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.”

The Harvest and Israel’s Feast Days

74. **EXO 23:14** “Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year: 15 “You shall keep THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty); 16 “and THE FEAST OF HARVEST, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the FEAST OF INGATHERING at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.
75. **DEU 26:2** “that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide.
76. **EXO 34:22** “And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year’s end.
77. **EXO 34:21** “Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; in plowing time and in harvest you shall rest. 22 “And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year’s end. 23 “Three times in the year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the Lord God of Israel.
78. **LEV 19:9** ‘When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 ‘And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the Lord your God.
79. **LEV 23:10** “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. 11 ‘He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. 12 ‘And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord.
80. **LEV 25:5** ‘What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land. 6 ‘And the Sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you, 7 ‘for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land—all its produce shall be for food. 8 ‘And you shall count seven Sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. 9 ‘Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. 10 ‘And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family. 11 ‘That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of its own accord, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine.

Vineyards and the Grape Harvest

81. **ISA 5:1** Now let me sing to my Well-beloved. A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: **My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. 2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes.**
82. **NUM 13:23** Then **they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole.** They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs.
83. **PSA 80:12** **Why have You broken down her hedges, So that all who pass by the way pluck her fruit?** 13 The boar out of the woods uproots it, And the wild beast of the field devours it.
84. **JDG 9:27** So **they went out into the fields, and gathered grapes from their vineyards and trod them, and made merry.** And they went into the house of their god, and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech.
85. **JER 6:9** Thus says the Lord of hosts: “**They shall thoroughly glean as a vine the remnant of Israel; As a grape-gatherer, put your hand back into the branches.**”
86. **ISA 16:10** Gladness is taken away, And joy from the plentiful field; In the vineyards there will be no singing, Nor will there be shouting; **No treaders will tread out wine in the presses; I have made their shouting cease.**
87. **DEU 23:24** “**When you come into your neighbor’s vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes at your pleasure, but you shall not put any in your container.**”
88. **ISA 25:18** Then **Abigail made haste and took** two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, **one hundred clusters of raisins,** and two hundred cakes of figs, **and loaded them on donkeys.**
89. **2SA 16:1** When **David was a little past the top of the mountain, there was Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth, who met him with a couple of saddled donkeys,** and on them two hundred loaves of bread, **one hundred clusters of raisins,** one hundred summer fruits, and **a skin of wine.**
90. **GEN 43:11** And their father Israel said to them, “If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man—a little balm and **a little honey,** spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.
91. **EZE 27:17** “**Judah and the land of Israel were your traders. They traded for your merchandise** wheat of Minnith, millet, **honey,** oil, and balm.
92. **JER 48:33** Joy and gladness are taken From the plentiful field And from the land of Moab; **I have caused wine to fail from the winepresses; No one will tread with joyous shouting—Not joyous shouting!**
93. **ISA 63:3** “**I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.** 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. 5 I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me. 6 **I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth.**”
94. **SON 2:15** **Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines have tender grapes.** The Shulamite
95. **SON 2:13** The fig tree puts forth her green figs, And the vines with the tender grapes Give a good smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away!
96. **PRO 24:30** **I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; 31 And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down.**
97. **MAT 20:1** “For **the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.** 2 “Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 “And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,
98. **MAT 21:33** “Hear another parable: **There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.** 34 “Now **when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.**
99. **LUK 14:28** “For **which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—** 29 “lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 “saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’”
100. **JOH 15:1** “**I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.** 3 “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
101. **REV 19:13** He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. **He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**



HARVEST — the period at the end of the growing season, when crops were gathered. Harvest was one of the happiest times of the year in Palestine (PSA 126:5–6; ISA 9:3), marked with celebrations and religious festivals (EXO 23:16). There were two grain harvests. Barley was gathered from mid-April onwards, and wheat from mid-May. The harvest of fruit from trees and vines took place in the fall. Cutting with a sickle began the process of harvesting grain (DEU 16:9; MAR 4:29). Then it was gathered into sheaves (DEU 24:5). Next the grain was taken to the threshing floor, an important local site with a hard surface and often situated on higher ground. Various tools, such as metal-toothed sledges drawn by oxen, were used for threshing (ISA 28:28; 41:15). Then the grain was winnowed, or tossed into the air, with a pitchfork. The wind carried off the chaff, but the heavier kernels and straw fell to the ground (MAT 3:12). Finally, the kernels were shaken in a sieve, made of a wooden hoop with leather thongs (ISA 30:28; AMO 9:9). Then the grain was stored. Harvest became a picture of God’s judgment (JER 51:33; JOE 3:13), and Jesus compared the Last Judgment with the harvest (MAT 13:30, 39; REV 14:14–20). However, Jesus used the same metaphor for the gathering together of those who believed in Him (MAT 9:37–38; LUK 10:2), indicating that the final harvest has already begun with His first coming (JOH 4:35).

Agriculture. This was little cared for by the patriarchs. The pastoral life, however, was the means of keeping the sacred race, whilst yet a family, distinct from mixture and locally unattached, especially whilst in Egypt. When grown into a nation it supplied a similar check on the foreign intercourse, and became the basis of the Mosaic commonwealth. “The land is mine,” LEV 25:23, was a dictum which made agriculture likewise the basis of the theocratic relation. Thus every family felt its own life with intense keenness, and had its divine tenure which it was to guard from alienation. The prohibition of culture in the sabbatical year formed a kind of rent reserved by the divine Owner. Landmarks were deemed sacred, DEU 19:14, and the inalienability of the heritage was insured by its reversion to the owner in the year of jubilee; so that only so many years of occupancy could be sold. LEV 25:8-16, 23-35.

Rain.—Water was abundant in Palestine from natural sources. DEU 8:7; 11:8-12. Rain was commonly expected soon after the autumnal equinox. The period denoted by the common scriptural expressions of the “early” and the “latter rain,” DEU 11:14; JER 5:24; HOS 6:3; ZEC 10:1; JAM 5:7, generally reaching from November to April, constituted the “rainy season,” and the remainder of the year the “dry season.”

Crops.—The cereal crops of constant mention are wheat and barley, and more rarely rye and millet(?). Of the two former, together with the vine, olive, and fig, the use of irrigation, the plough, and the harrow, mention is made in the book of JOB 31:40; 15:33; 24:6; 29:19; 39:10. Two kinds of cumin (the black variety called “fitches,” ISA 28:27), and such podded plants as beans and lentiles, may be named among the staple produce.

Ploughing and Sowing.—The plough was probably very light, one yoke of oxen usually sufficing to draw it. Mountains and steep places were hoed. ISA 7:25. New ground and fallows, JER 4:3; HOS 10:12, were cleared of stones and of thorns, ISA 5:2, early in the year, sowing or gathering from “among thorns” being a proverb for slovenly husbandry. JOB 5:5; PRO 24:30, 31. Sowing also took place without previous ploughing, the seed being scattered broadcast and ploughed in afterwards. The soil was then brushed over with a light harrow, often of thorn bushes. In high-irrigated spots the seed was trampled in by cattle. ISA 32:20. Seventy days before the passover was the time prescribed for sowing. The oxen were urged on by a goad like a spear. JDG 3:31. The proportion of harvest gathered to seed sown was often vast; a hundred fold is mentioned, but in such a way as to signify that it was a limit rarely attained. GEN 26:12; MAT 13:8. Sowing a field with divers seed was forbidden. DEU 22:9.

Reaping and Threshing.—The wheat, etc., was reaped by the sickle or pulled up by the roots. It was bound in sheaves. The sheaves or heaps were carted, , to the floor—a circular spot of hard ground, probably, as now, from 50 to 80 or 100 feet in diameter. GEN 1:10, 11; 2SA 24:16, 18. On these the oxen, etc., forbidden to be muzzled, DEU 25:4, trampled out the grain. At a later time the Jews used a threshing sledge called  ISA 41:15; 2SA 24:22; 1CH 21:23, probably resembling the  still employed in Egypt—a stage with three rollers ridged with iron, which, aided by the driver’s weight, crushed out, often injuring, the grain, as well as cut or tore the straw, which thus became fit for fodder. Lighter grains were beaten out with a stick. ISA 28:27. The use of animal manure was frequent. PSA 83:10; 2KI 9:37; JER 8:2, etc.

Winnowing.—The shovel and fan, ISA 30:24, indicate the process of winnowing—a conspicuous part of ancient husbandry. PSA 35:5; JOB 21:18; ISA 17:13. Evening was the favorite time, RUT 3:2, when there was mostly a breeze. The fan, MAT 3:12, was perhaps a broad shovel which threw the grain up against the wind. The last process was the shaking in a sieve to separate dirt and refuse. AMO 9:9. Fields and floors were not commonly enclosed; vineyards mostly were, with a tower and other buildings. NUM 22:24; PSA 80:13; ISA 5:5; MAT 21:33; comp. JDG 6:11. The gardens also and orchards were enclosed, frequently by banks of mud from ditches. With regard to occupancy, a tenant might pay a fixed money rent, SON 8:11, or a stipulated share of the fruits, 2SA 9:10; MAT 21:34. A passerby might eat any quantity of corn or grapes, but not reap or carry off fruit. DEU 23:24, 25; MAT 12:1. The rights of the corner to be left, and of gleaning

<p>Harvest—the time when the crops are ripe</p> <p>A. Occasion of:</p> <p>Great joy ISA 9:3</p> <p>Bringing the first fruits LEV 23:10</p> <p>Remembering the poor LEV 19:9, 10</p> <p>B. Figuratively of:</p> <p>Seasons of grace JER 8:20</p> <p>Judgment JER 51:33</p>	God’s wrath REV 14:15	<p>D. Failure caused by:</p> <p>Drought AMO 4:7</p> <p>Locusts JOE 1:4</p> <p>Sin ISA 17:4–12</p>
	Gospel opportunities MAT 9:37, 38	
	World’s end MAT 13:30, 39	
	Measure of fruitfulness 2CO 9:6	
	C. Promises concerning:	
	To continue GEN 8:22	
	Rain JER 5:24	
	Patience JAM 5:7	