## Matthew 13: The Harvest

**Overview:** This study will provide a clearer understanding of when the harvest is to take place and what is to happen to the wheat and tares at the time of the harvest.

Prayer Thought: Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 28

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:24-30

- **Verse 37**—the man who sowed good seed, the Son of man, this is Christ. He is referred to as the Son of man after he was born of a woman.
- Verse 39—the enemy who sowed the tares of course is the devil.
- **TM 46**—"while the Lord brings into the church those who are truly converted, the wheat; Satan at the same time brings persons who are not converted into its fellowship, the tares. While Christ is sowing the good seed, Satan is sowing the tares."
- **Verse 38**—"The field . . . is the world. But we must understand this as signifying the church in the world." (**COL 70**).
- Verse 39 the reapers the angels.
- **TM 47**—"The time of harvest will fully determine the character of the two classes specified under the figure of the tares and the wheat. The work of separation is given to the angels of God and is not committed into the hands of any man.".
- **Verse 39**—the time of harvest is at the end of the world. This does not necessarily mean Christ's second coming.
- **COL 72**—the harvest occurs at the end of probationary time.
- **Heb. 9:24–26**—the end of the world at the time Christ entered into the most holy place to "put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."
- **EW 118, Rev. 14:14-15**—the third angel separates the wheat and tares in the church. This demonstrates that the harvest is *prior* to the second advent.

# What happens to the wheat and the tares at the time of the harvest?

- **Matt. 13:30**—The wheat and tares are to grow together until the time of harvest. The tares will be gathered together *first* in bundles to be burned, then the wheat gathered into the barn.
- **DA 786**—the harvest takes place in two phases . . . first fruits of the harvest gathered in when the tares are removed, then the sickle can be put to the grain and the rest of the harvest takes place.
- **Rev. 14:14-16**—there will be two reapings. One of the *first fruits*, then one for the *second fruits*. In these verses we see the Son of man reaping in a harvest. This could not be His second coming as He only has a crown and a sickle in his hand(cf. **Rev. 19:11-12, 15**).
- Rev. 14:17-19—We see another angel doing a separate reaping.
- **9T 97**—"The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth." While the door is closed to for S. D. A.'s because we have had greater light, the door is still opened for those who have never had the opportunity to know the truth.

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### The Harvest is a period of time.

• **Jer. 8:20**—After the harvest, probation is closed and the people can no longer be saved.

#### Summary:

- This study demonstrates that the wheat and tares are to grow together until the time of Harvest.
- Once the Harvest has begun, the tares are the first to be removed, then the wheat is gathered into the barn (God's kingdom).
- The Great Multitude of Rev. 7:9 are brought in by the 144,000.
- Two reapings are plainly seen, one for the gathering of the first fruits, and one for the gathering of the second fruits.
- Once the harvest is over, probation closed, no one can be saved any longer. Then it is that Christ will throw down the censer and say "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

Further Reading: Tract No. 3, 3rd Ed., The Judgment and the Harvest, pp. 54-72.

