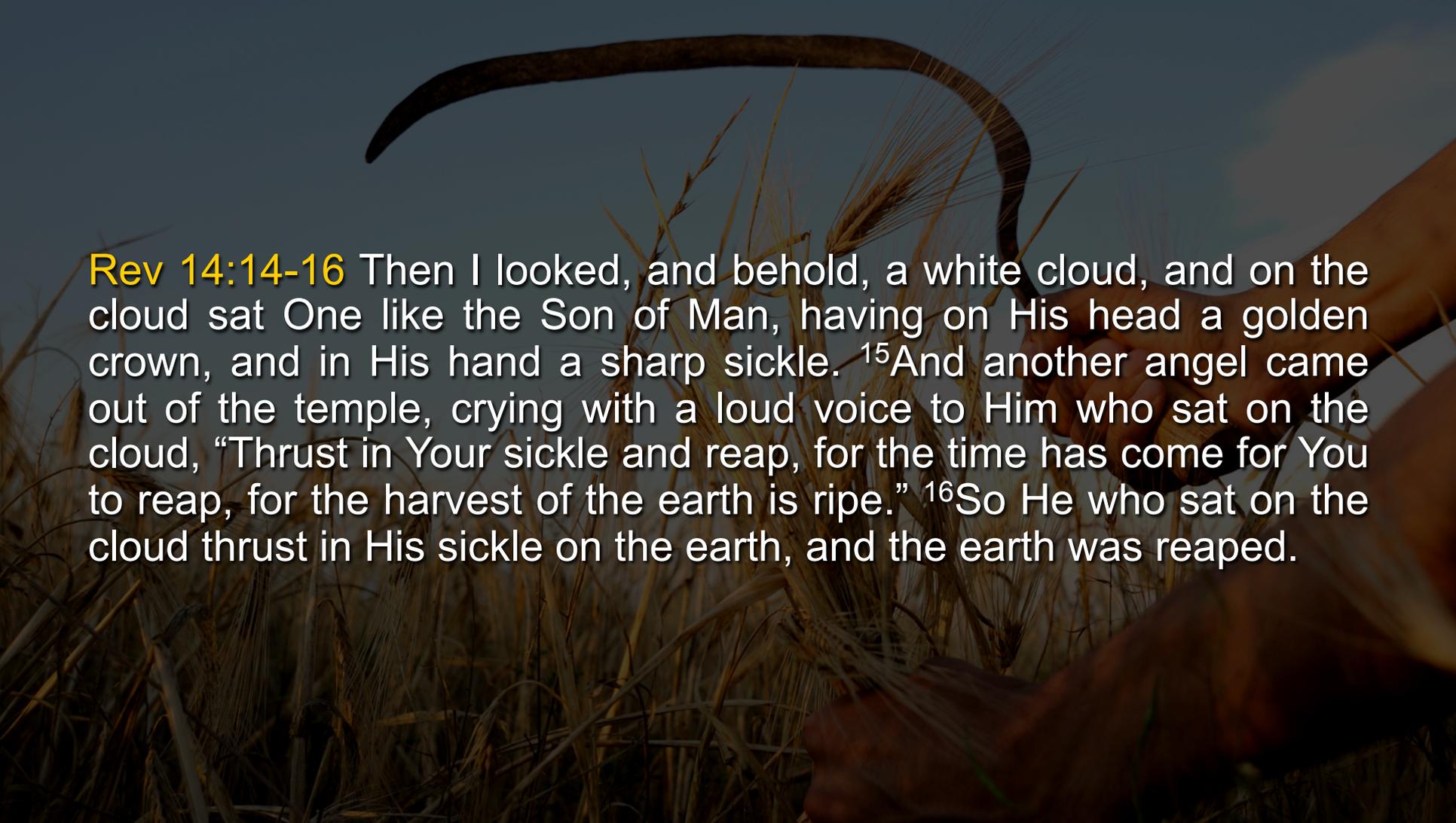


A close-up photograph of a person's hands using a scythe to harvest wheat in a field. The scythe is held high, and the wheat stalks are golden-brown, indicating they are ripe. The background shows a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds, suggesting a bright, sunny day. The lighting is warm, likely from the setting or rising sun, casting a golden glow over the scene.

The final harvest

Part 26b



Rev 14:14-16 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. ¹⁵And 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.” ¹⁶So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

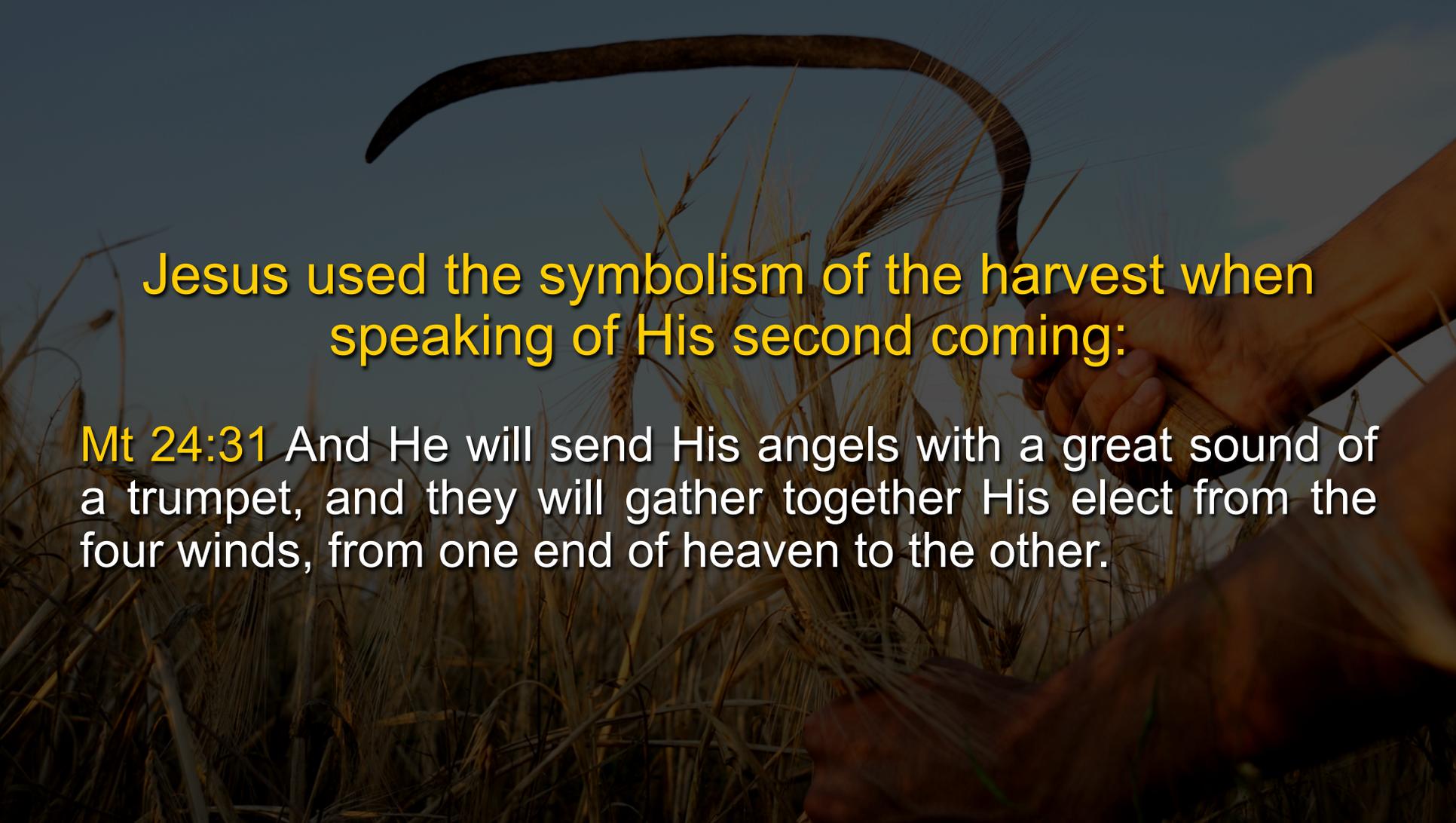


Scripture often uses the analogy of the harvest:

Prov 10:5 He who gathers in summer is a wise son; he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

20:4 The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing.

- **Parable of the sower and the seed** – Mt 13:3-9,18-23
- **Parable of the fig tree and the gardener** – Lk 13:6-9
- **Parable of the wheat and tares** – Mt 13:24-30
- **Parable of owner of vineyard, his vinedressers, and servants** – Mt 21:33-39

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a wooden scythe, positioned to cut a stalk of wheat in a field. The background is a soft-focus landscape of wheat under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image in yellow and white.

Jesus used the symbolism of the harvest when speaking of His second coming:

Mt 24:31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.



Many believe this “harvest/
judgment” terminology is not
befitting of a “loving” Jesus



Indeed the Lord loves us:

1 Jn 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

But He also loves justice:

Ps 37:28 For the Lord loves justice, and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.



He came as a humble servant:

Phil 2:6-8 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

He is returning as a judging Lord:



2 Thess 1:8 when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe,

1. Rev 14:14-20 speaks of the judgment coming to the wicked upon the earth.

John describes the judgment using two metaphors:

- **The grain harvest** – 14-16 (the bowl judgments, ch. 6)
- **The grape harvest** – 17-20 (the Battle of Armageddon, ch. 19)

The grain harvest

Symbolizes the bowl judgments of ch. 16

Bowl 1: sores on the followers of the Beast (v. 2)

Bowl 2: sea becomes “as” blood (v. 3)

Bowl 3: fresh water becomes “as” blood (v. 4)

Bowl 4: the sun’s heat is intensified & the wicked are scorched (v. 8-9)

Bowl 5: darkness reigns & the Beast’s followers are tormented (v. 10)

Bowl 6: Euphrates is dried creating a way for armies out of the east & three demons go out to deceive the eastern leaders (v. 12-13)

Bowl 7: greatest earthquake in history that destroys cities, islands, mountains and great hail falls to the earth bringing devastation (v. 17-20)

2. The reaper: Jesus



Dan 7:13-14 “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.



- **The clouds:**

Mt 24:30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

26:64 Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”



Acts 1:9,11 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ... ¹¹who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”



- The crown:

- not the *diadema*

Rev 19:12 ... and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ...

¹⁶And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

- but the *stephanos* worn by victors coming in triumph

1 Cor 9:25 ... Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

3. The ripeness

- Ripe = dried up, withered, overripe, rotten
- Jesus exercises all judgment:

Jn 5:22, 27 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ... ²⁷and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

Acts 10:42, 17:31 it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead. ... ³¹because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained.



4. The reaping:

The bowl judgments of
Rev 16

The grape harvest



Symbolizes the Battle of Armageddon



5. The reaper

- an angel – the 6th in the vision
- Comes from the altar – judgment

6. The Ripeness

- Ripe = fully ripe, in it's prime
- Pictures the wicked as they are bursting with the juice of wickedness and ready for judgment

7. The Reaping

- Trampling of grapes and the subsequent splattering of blood symbolizes the spattered blood of those who will be destroyed

Is 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.

Lam 1:15 The Lord has trampled underfoot all my mighty men in my midst; He has called an assembly against me to crush my young men; the Lord trampled as in a winepress

Joel 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.”



Treading floor

Grapes

Plug rock

Vat

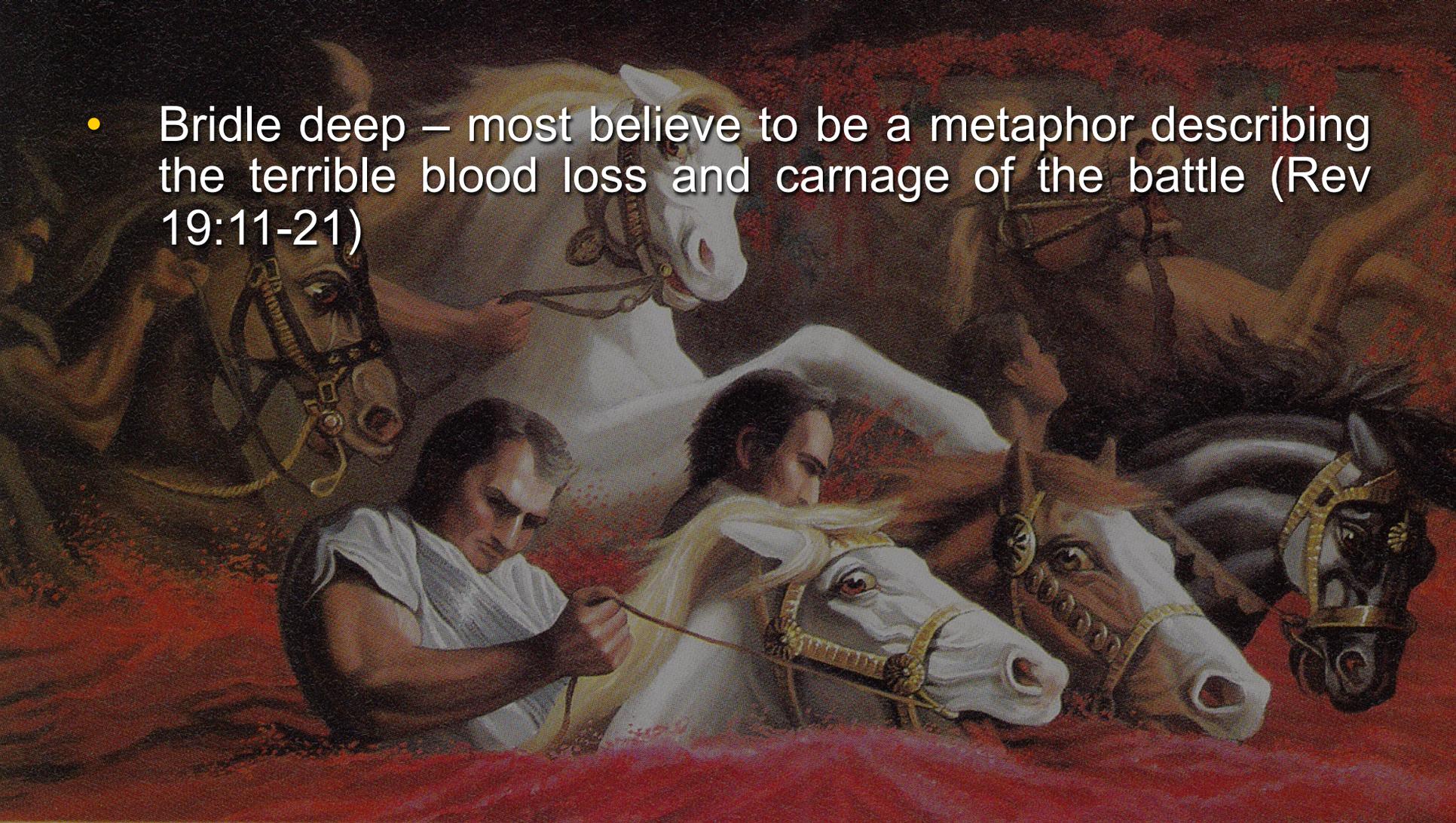
Channel

Vat

- Trodden outside the city – the Lord will spare Jerusalem from the carnage of the battle

Zech 14:1-4 Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. ²For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle ⁴And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.

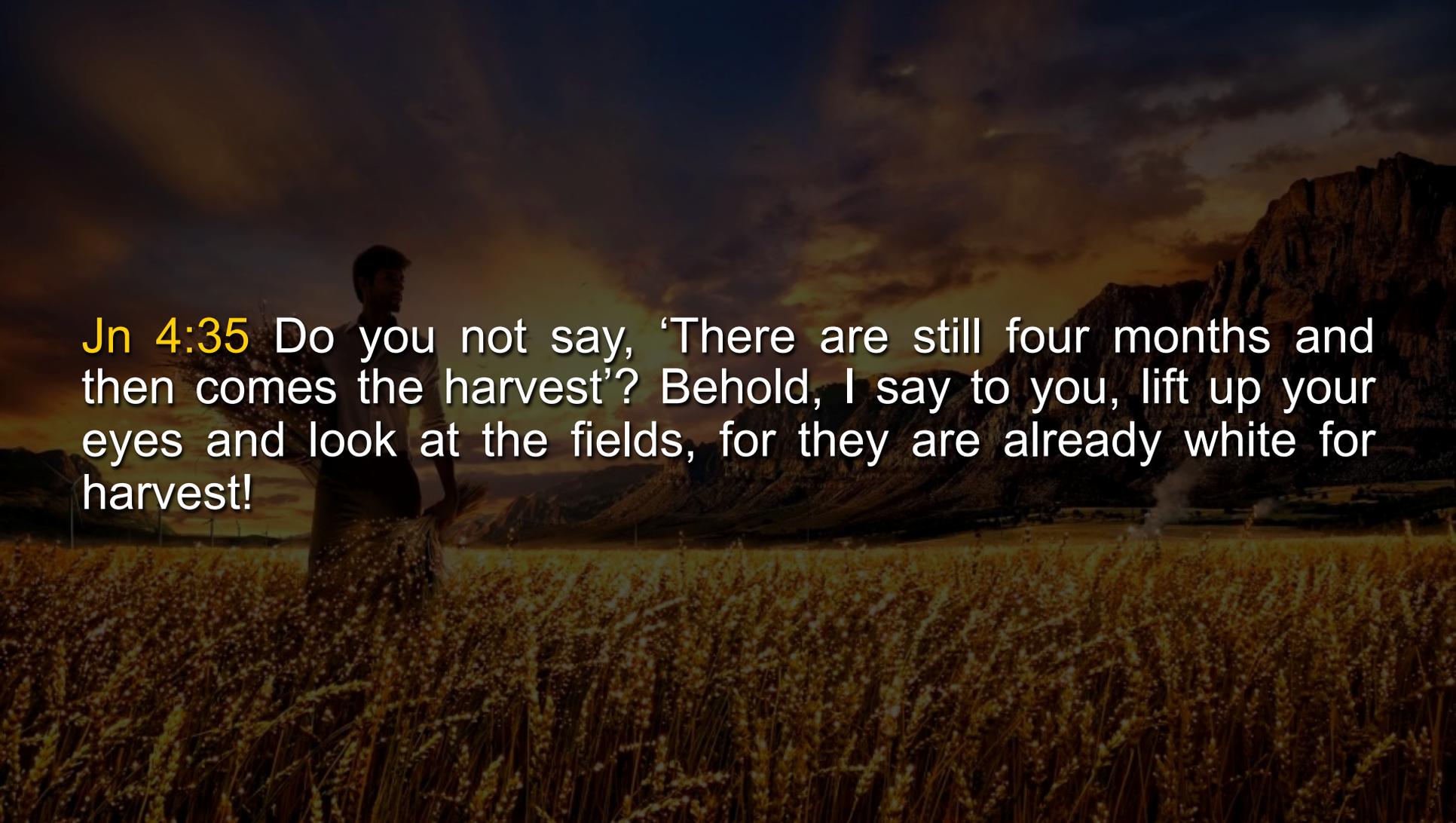
- Bridle deep – most believe to be a metaphor describing the terrible blood loss and carnage of the battle (Rev 19:11-21)



Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Ps 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.



A man in a dark shirt and shorts stands in a field of golden wheat, looking towards the right. The background features a dramatic sunset over a valley with mountains. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The mountains in the distance are silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Jn 4:35 Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!