

Chapter 6

Seven Harvests

Every person will participate in a harvest.
Your disbelief cannot make this reality vanish.

The Philadelphia rapture is a massive harvest of people from earth. Jesus taught that each person would participate in an end-time harvest. Your harvest will be a one-way trip to an eternal heaven—or an eternal hell.

In the following story, a person is either precious *wheat* bound for heaven, or *weed* bound for hell.

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

"The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

"An enemy did this.' He replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

"No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

(Matthew 13:24-30)

Jesus later explained this parable:

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. (Matthew 13:36-39)

Types of Harvests

There are three distinct categories of end-time harvests. Rapture is the sudden transport of a living person to heaven. Resurrection is the raising of the dead. In addition, there is one Rescue, when Jesus returns to earth to save Israel.

Most prophecy interpretations state there is one, single end-time rapture. However, upon closer examination, most agree that the two witnesses—whom God resurrects and then transports to heaven—participate in a second type of rapture.

TABLE 6-1: SCRIPTURES CITING TWO SEPARATE RAPTURES

Rapture	Corresponding Scripture
Worldwide —involves the church	<i>Two men will be in the field; one will be <u>taken</u> and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be <u>taken</u> and the other left. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day our Lord will come." (Matthew 24:40-42)</i>
Jerusalem— for two witnesses	<i>Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them "Come up here." And <u>they went up to heaven</u> in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. (Revelation 11:12)</i>

Nothing in scripture prevents a third rapture from occurring. In fact, there are multiple harvests found in scripture.

TABLE 6-2: SEVEN HARVESTS

Harvest	Harvest Type	Timeline	Impacts
#1	Rapture	At Sixth Seal	Philadelphia
#2	Resurrection & Rapture	At 42 months	Two Witnesses
#3	Resurrection		Asleep in Christ
#4	Rapture		Laodicea Church
#5	Rescue	At the end of the seven years—when Jesus returns to earth	Israel
#6	Resurrection	After Post-Flood Age	Israelis slain the final 43 months
#7	Resurrection	After Millennium Age	The Damned

TABLE 6-3: THE HARVEST TIMELINE

HARVEST	Start of 7 Years	Mid Point (3 ½ Years)	End of 7 Years	Millennium Age
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RAPTURES

Philadelphia Church →
(Revelation 3:10)

Laodicea Church =====→
(Revelation 3:19, 14:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)

RESURRECTION & RAPTURE

Two Witnesses =====→
(Revelation 11:12)

RESCUE

The Second Coming (Israel) =====→
(Revelation 19:11-16)

RESURRECTIONS

Believers throughout the Ages ===→
(1 Corinthians 15:51-53)

End-Time Israel =====→
(Revelation 20:4-5)

Great White Throne =====→
(Revelation 20:13-15)

The Philadelphia Harvest

The Philadelphia rapture will be the initial harvest.

HARVEST #1: THE PHILADELPHIA RAPTURE

Harvest	Details
Sixth Seal rapture ... of the Philadelphia Church	<p><i>After this I looked and there before me was a <u>great multitude</u> that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. ...</i> (Revelation 7:9)</p> <p><i>Then one of the elders asked me “These in white robes—who are they, and <u>where did they come from?</u>” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “<u>These are they who have come out of the great tribulation</u> ...”</i> (Revelation 7:13-14)</p>

John asks about the *great multitude* of people who appear in heaven—*where did they come from?* The answer—they were just raptured from earth; *these are they who have come out of the great tribulation.*

Half Time

At the middle of the seven-year period, there are three separate harvests. The first harvest, the resurrection and rapture of two witnesses, captures the attention of the entire world. These two prophets preach in Jerusalem, proclaiming the validity of Jesus Christ.

Look of the supernatural aspects of their testimony: *If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.* (Revelation 11:5-6)

After the two witnesses *have finished their testimony*, they will be assassinated. However, this is not the end of the story. The entire world then will witness the resurrection of the two witnesses. At that time, God will call them both *up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watch.*

HARVEST #2: TWO WITNESSES

Harvest	Details
<p>Resurrection & Rapture</p> <p>... of two witnesses</p> <p>... at the 42-month point</p>	<p><i>Now <u>when they have finished their testimony</u>, the <u>beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and <u>overpower and kill them</u></u>. Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. But after the three and a half days <u>a breath of life from God entered them</u>, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And <u>they went up to heaven in a cloud</u>, while their enemies looked on.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Revelation 11:7-12)</p>

Sodom and Egypt describe the corrupt Jerusalem of today, which is infinitely corrupt compared to the eternal, heavenly Jerusalem. In the Old Testament *Sodom* personified a corrupt city; it was the city from which the word “sodomy” is derived. *Egypt* with its Pharaohs living in rebellion against God, represented the very worst of the God-rejecting world. To emphasize the Jerusalem location, the verse adds *where also their Lord was crucified*. Jesus was crucified near the ancient walled city of Jerusalem.

An earthquake then strikes Jerusalem. *At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed, seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.* (Revelation 11:13) The spiritual veil—the blindfold that covered Israeli eyes for two thousand years—lifts and the people of Israel will see Jesus as Messiah.

The next harvest takes believers who failed to respond to the terrifying events of the sixth seal with patience and brotherly love—the *Laodicea* Church members. These believers were left behind at the initial rapture, to be disciplined and made mature. Remember that Jesus promised discipline for *Laodicea* Church members: *You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.* Jesus then warned, *Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.* (Revelation 3:17-19)

Now at the middle point of the end-times—at the *last trumpet*—the rapture that transports the now-disciplined Laodicea Church to heaven occurs, along with the resurrection of the bodies of the believers since the beginning of time. These harvests follow the *last trumpet*, which is the seventh trumpet. Paul described these harvests as occurring *at the last trumpet*. Paul also said this second rapture would be for those who “*are left*” behind—from the earlier Philadelphia rapture.

- *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)*
- *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)*

Like the initial rapture, this middle (of seven years) rapture describes believers, by the countless millions, forcefully pulled (raptured) from earth to heaven.

HARVESTS 3 & 4: LAST TRUMPET HARVESTS

Harvest	Impacts	Details
Harvest #3 Resurrection at 42 months	Believers asleep in Christ	<i>I looked and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one “like a son of man” with a crown of gold on his head a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the <u>harvest</u> of the earth is ripe.” So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and <u>the earth was harvested</u>. (Revelation 14:14-16)</i>
Harvest #4 Rapture at 42 months	Matured Laodicea Church + New Believers	

Scriptures use a specific Greek work for *harvest* twelve times. Every use is a quote from Jesus, except one notable exception. The final time the word *harvest* appears is at the resurrection of the dead and simultaneous Laodicea rapture. (Revelation 14:15)

TABLE 6-4: JESUS' USE OF "HARVEST"

Matthew 9:37-38	<i>Then he said to his disciples, "The <u>harvest</u> is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the <u>harvest</u>, therefore, to send out workers into his <u>harvest</u> field."</i>
Matthew 13:30	<i>Let both grow together until the <u>harvest</u>. At <u>that time</u> I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn. * KJV translates "in the time of harvest" for "At that time."</i>
Matthew 13:39	<i>And the enemy who sows them is the devil. The <u>harvest</u> is the end of the age and the harvesters are angels.</i>
Mark 4:29	<i>As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the <u>harvest</u> has come."</i>
Luke 10:2	<i>He told them, "The <u>harvest</u> is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the <u>harvest</u>, therefore, to send out workers into his <u>harvest</u> field.</i>
John 4:35	<i>Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the <u>harvest</u>'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for <u>harvest</u>.</i>

Final End-Time Harvests

The first three and a half years Israel remains in unbelief. God protects Israel from Antichrist during this time. Scripture clearly describes this protection for Israel, depicted as a woman. *The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.* (Revelation 12:6) That 1260-day period equals three and one-half years.

Zechariah foretold this turning of Israel to a crucified Messiah. God is quoted as saying concerning that time: *"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a first-born son.* (Zechariah 12:10)

Israel will weep for Jesus—the Messiah whom they had *pierced* but now accept as a first-born son. Nails pierced the hands and feet of Jesus as Roman soldiers nailed him to the cross. This crucifixion was foretold centuries ahead of time, before crucifixion had even been invented: *they have pierced my hands and my feet.* (Psalm 22:16)

HARVEST #5: END-TIME ISRAELI BELIEVERS

Harvest	Details
Israel Harvested in God's Wrath from 42-85 months	<i>Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of <u>grapes</u> from the <u>earth's vine</u> because its grapes are ripe. The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great <u>winepress</u> of God's <u>wrath</u>. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.</i> (Revelation 14:17-20)

Isaiah defined the *earth's vine* referenced above. *The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the house of Israel.* (Isaiah 5:7) God accomplishes the violent harvest of Israel with great *wrath*. Just as the blood of Jesus made salvation available, God allows Israeli blood to be shed to underscore repentance.

Zechariah quoted God as saying, *I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.* Suddenly, in the next verse the focus shifts from the violent harvest of Israel, to the rescue harvest of Israel at the second coming: *then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem ... On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter. The Lord will be king over the whole earth.* (Zechariah 14:2-9)

Following the Seven Years

Israel's Resurrection

The next harvest occurs after the seven-years are over. Israelis martyred the final three and a half years are still in the grave, so God brings them to life in a resurrection that includes beheaded martyrs.

HARVEST #6: RESURRECTION OF ISRAELI MARTYRS

Harvest	Details
Resurrection of Israelis slain the final 43 months	<i>... And I saw the souls of those who had been <u>beheaded</u> because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life...</i> (Revelation 20:4)

Attacks against Israel will come from Islamic nations; even today beheading is a method of Islamic execution. Moses foretold the unrelenting conflict between Israel and Islam four thousand years ago, and described the type of enemy Islam was destined to become. (Genesis 16:10-12)

The Final Harvest

God resurrects the eternally damned following the Millennium Age. These resurrected will be brought before the Great White Throne to be judged. There will be only one condition for judgment—whether or not a person's name is *written in the book of life*. This will be the largest harvest. Most people will never accept God's offer of salvation, and therefore will spend eternity in hell.

HARVEST #7: THE FINAL RESURRECTION

Harvest	Details
Following the Millennium Resurrection of the Damned	<i>The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found <u>written in the book of life</u>, he was thrown into the lake of fire.</i> (Revelation 20:13-15)