

THE HARVEST

The Harvest is seen as a time of reaping and gathering. It is a celebration of the fruits of your labor. It is a time of great feasting and celebration because of the ingathering that takes place. It is the process of gathering a mature crop. Harvest is also related to the kingdom and those that enter the kingdom through labourers.

James 5:4 (NKJV)

Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

The intensity of deep dissatisfaction in terms wages or reward of the laborer and reaper had reached the ears of The Lord. There will be answer to this deep cry and the harvest is coming in.

There is seedtime and a time to harvest. There must be a time of reaping for seed that was sown. As trees grow fruit must hang on the tree in its due time. That time has come when we will see quality fruit in the Kingdom of God.

*22 "While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat,
Winter and summer,
And day and night
Shall not cease
(Genesis 8:22 NKJV)*

After the flood Noah had to come out of the ark and begin to sow into the ground and reap a harvest. We have built structures but the time must come when we come out of the structures and begin to plant vineyards and we will see the fruit of our labours.

The harvest is when the seed matures into a tree and bears fruit. A first fruit company must see that harvest being reaped.

*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
(Revelation 14:14-16 NKJV)*

In order to reap the harvest we must have a sharp sickle. This is a pruning instrument used to reap the harvest. The tools for harvesting are a plowshare and a pruning hook.

*3 He shall judge between many peoples,
And rebuke strong nations afar off;
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.
4 But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree,
And no one shall make them afraid;
For the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken
(Micah 4:3-4 NKJV)*

Weapons that are used for war now become weapons of harvest. What was a battleground becomes a field of tress with quality fruit. Our weapon of the sword and the spear which were used for attacking must become plough shares and pruning hooks. The word must be centralised around Christ who is the first fruit or the proton of all fruit. Fruit must be produced after His kind. We must deliver the word in a manner that brings the truth without compromise yet in a way that does not destroy but builds.

The seed which is little has now matured and grown to produce a harvest.

22 A little one shall become a thousand,

And a small one a strong nation.

I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time.”

(Isaiah 60:22 NKJV)

SOVEREIGN RULE OVER THE HARVEST

Jesus Christ is Lord of the Harvest and therefore He has sovereignty over the harvest.

2 Then He said to them, “ The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest

(Luke 10:2 NKJV)

Christ exercises His Lordship or sovereignty over every type of harvest.

We must not create own own harvest through works of the flesh. We must reap the harvest that is appointed by God. Peter reaped a harvest of fish when the works of his flesh failed all night. His obedience to the word brought in mega fish (John 21). Don't try to feed the five thousand with your strength. Let the little be in His hands and see the harvest of abundance multiply before your own eyes.

We must be sent as labourers by the Lord of the Harvest. He must determine where the harvest must be reaped.

Harvest is governed by:

TIME - KAIROS

In the agricultural cycle of the Israelites there were three main harvests.

The three principal feasts of the Jews corresponded to the three harvest seasons (Ex 23:16; 34:21, 22);

(1) the feast of the Passover in April at the time of the barley harvest (compare Ruth 1:22);

(2) the feast of Pentecost (7 weeks later) at the wheat harvest (Ex 34:22), and

(3) the feast of Tabernacles at the end of the year (October) during the fruit harvest. The seasons have not changed since that time. Between the reaping of the barley in April and the wheat in June, most of the other cereals are reaped. The grapes begin to ripen in August, but the gathering in for making wine and molasses (dibs), and the storing of the dried figs and raisins, is at the end of September

(ISBE)

We are in the season of the Feast of Tabernacles where we are living from God and not getting to God. He is tabernacling with us and we are in Him. He is the Lord of the Harvest and we should begin to see the harvest come in.

We must know when winter is past and summer is in so that we can begin to reap the harvest. This requires discernment, preparation, strategy and hard labour. We must labour for the food that gives life and not for the food that perishes.

While we wait for a harvest Jesus reminds us:

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! 36 And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps 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
(John 4:35-38 NKJV)

Jesus was making this statement before the Fruit Harvest. Reapers receive wages and gather fruit for eternal life. The fruit is those who enter the Kingdom of God and receive "Zoe Life". The wages is Christ.

In order to reap the harvest we must have sight. Like Abraham we must lift our eyes and look at the land and see that the harvest is ready. We can only reap what we see. We must begin to see in the spirit and know the kairos of God. Kairos time is kingdom time. We must know that we are in the fruit harvest and begin to structure ourselves accordingly.

Certain natural events are indications of the kairos of God.

54 Then He also said to the multitudes, "Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming'; and so it is. 55 And when you see the south wind blow, you say, "There will be hot weather"; and there is. 56 Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not discern this time
(Luke 12:54-56 NKJV)

Natural Harvest is governed by season spiritual harvest is governed by hearing and seeing in the spirit.

LABOURER TO REAPER

Sometimes our focus is to produce leaders and not labourers who become reapers. Harvesting is highly labour intensive. There has to be a high work ethic.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest
(Matthew 9:37-38 NKJV)

As labourers we sow but as reapers we reap harvests. Ruth came to Bethlehem at the time of the barley harvest. She followed the reapers, sat at the reapers table and married that master of the reapers. She reaped where she did not sow. Her harvest was connected to grace.

A labourer will become a reaper because of grace connections.

The labourer becomes a reaper when there is a transition from son to father. As sons we labor in the fields as fathers we reap what sons have labored in. There must be a transition from sons of households to fathers in the kingdom.

Reaper - thiristes - harvester - theros - summer

The word reaper is connected with the season of harvesting. You cannot reap if you do not understand the times and seasons of God.

Joseph was a son in the household of Jacob but he became a father to Pharaoh

David was a son to Jesse in the household but he became a King of Israel which translates into becoming a Father in the Body of Christ.

The master reaps where he did not sow and the sower will overtake the reaper.

Matthew 25:24 (NKJV)

“ Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

Amos 9:13 (NKJV)

*“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord,
“When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,
And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;
The mountains shall drip with sweet wine,
And all the hills shall flow with it.*

Every son as labourer will transition to a father and become a reaper

John 4:37-38 (NKJV)

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.”

This transition will bring in a quality harvest of human and physical resource. There must be good fruit and not wild fruit.

TOOLS

The tools for harvest is a plough and a sickle. In terms of harvest for fishing it's a boat and a net. We plough to sow we use a sickle to reap. The sickle is a pruning hook that is used to cut the wheat and also the fruit.

Mark 4:29 (NKJV)

But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

We must have a sharp sickle

Revelation 14:14 (NKJV)

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.

If you are in the house of Saul you will not have a sickle to harvest

1 Samuel 13:19-22 (NKJV)

Now there was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, “Lest the Hebrews make swords or spears.” 20 But all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to sharpen each man's plowshare, his mattock, his ax, and his sickle; 21 and the charge for a sharpening was a pim for the plowshares, the mattocks, the forks, and the axes, and to set the points of the goads. 22 So it came about, on the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people who were with Saul and Jonathan. But they were found with Saul and Jonathan his son.

You must connect with a blacksmith that can equip you with a sharp sickle to harvest

To reap the harvest of mega fish you must have a boat and a net. You must be able to gather in the harvest. While there is willingness to be obedient there must be the tools to carry out the obedience. Peter could respond to the request of The Lord with the tools at his disposal and he gathered in the mega fish

John 21:5-6 (NKJV)

Then Jesus said to them, “ Children, have you any food?”

They answered Him, “No.” 6 And He said to them, “ Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

We must know what our tools are to reap a harvest. We must know the product that God has entrusted us with. If we are not confident in the seed that we have received we will not reap quality fruit.

We tool people through schools. Paul tooled the 12 disciples through the school of Tyrannus. To reap a harvest in the region of Ephesus Paul schooled the disciples who brought in a great harvest that had immense effect on the region.

18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed

(Acts 19:18-20 NKJV)

STOREHOUSE or BARNs

To gather that harvest we must have a storehouses. There must be structures created to receive the harvest.

Genesis 41:48-49 (NKJV)

So he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them. 49 Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for it was immeasurable.

Genesis 41:56-57 (NKJV)

The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt. 57 So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands.

We build barns for distribution and not accumulation

Our hands are trained for war

Psalms 144:1 (NKJV)

1 Blessed be the Lord my Rock,

Who trains my hands for war,

And my fingers for battle—

Why?

11 Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners,

Whose mouth speaks lying words,

And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood—

12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth;

That our daughters may be as pillars,

Sculptured in palace style;

13 That our barns may be full,

Supplying all kinds of produce;

That our sheep may bring forth thousands

And ten thousands in our fields;

14 That our oxen may be well laden;

That there be no breaking in or going out;

That there be no outcry in our streets.

15 Happy are the people who are in such a state;

Happy are the people whose God is the Lord

(Psalms 144:11-15 NKJV)

As the harvest is reaped we must be distributors of the harvest. That which was brought to the feet of the Apostles was distributed.

WISDOM

In order to gather the harvest we need wisdom.

The wisdom of the ant will guide us in terms of handling harvest

Proverbs 6:6-11 (NKJV)

The Folly of Indolence

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard!

Consider her ways and be wise,

7 Which, having no captain,

Overseer or ruler,

8 Provides her supplies in the summer,

And gathers her food in the harvest.

9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard?

When will you rise from your sleep?

10 A little sleep, a little slumber,

A little folding of the hands to sleep—

11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler,

And your need like an armed man.

The ant is exceedingly wise.

25 The ants are a people not strong,

Yet they prepare their food in the summer

(Proverbs 30:25 NKJV)

The wisdom of the ant is its ability to function within a colony that is called:

*A **super-organism** is an organism consisting of many organisms. This is usually meant to be a social unit of eusocial (cooperative brood care) animals, where division of labour is highly specialised and where individuals are not able to survive by themselves for extended periods of time. Ants are the best-known example of such a super-organism (Wikipedia)*

In order to bring in the harvest you will need partners.

6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink

(Luke 5:6-7 NKJV)

A harvest of souls and resources came into the kingdom because of a super-organism type of colony that existed in the early church.

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved

(Acts 2:44-47 NKJV)

Those who are lazy within the colony will not partake in the harvest. We cannot become sluggish, slumber, slow down or fold our hands.

*13 The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside!
I shall be slain in the streets!"*

(Proverbs 22:13 NKJV)

Excuses will bring us into poverty and not harvest.

*24 The hand of the diligent will rule,
But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.*

(Proverbs 12:24 NKJV)

Instead of reaping laziness will lead to forced labour

*4 The lazy man will not plow because of winter;
He will beg during harvest and have nothing*

(Proverbs 20:4 NKJV)

If you have not sown during the winter months you will end up begging while others are harvesting. Elimelech left Bethlehem and ended up dead and his family became beggars (Ruth 1). While there was famine in Bethlehem Boaz was sowing and eventually reaped a harvest.

*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.

32 When I saw it, I considered it well;

I looked on it and received instruction:

33 A little sleep, a little slumber,

A little folding of the hands to rest;

34 So shall your poverty come like a prowler,

And your need like an armed man

(Proverbs 24:30-34 NKJV)

If a lazy man does not tend the vineyard because he lacks understanding it will not produce a harvest.

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours

26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents

(Matthew 25:25-28 NKJV)

It is wickedness to be lazy and waste the talent that God has placed in our hands. What is hidden in the earth is connected to an earthly value system. If we take what God has given us and allow it to be governed by earthly desires it will not produce a harvest. It becomes wasted

We must be labor intensive in order to reap the abundant harvest that God has begun to release. We have to diligently seek out with groanings and deep intercession His harvest that He has prepared.

In order for the harvest to be reaped the Household must be structured in a certain way:

(Song of Songs 2:4-14 NKJV)

1. Banqueting House
Songs 2
4 He brought me to the banqueting house,
2. House with the standard of love
And his banner over me was love.
3. House of sustenance
5 Sustain me with cakes of raisins,
4. House of refreshment
Refresh me with apples,
For I am lovesick.
5. House of embrace
6 His left hand is under my head,
And his right hand embraces me.
6. House with a voice
8 The voice of my beloved!
Behold, he comes
Leaping upon the mountains,
Skiping upon the hills.
7. House with vigour and strength
9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Behold, he stands behind our wall;
He is looking through the windows,
Gazing through the lattice.
8. House that causes one to arise
10 My beloved spoke, and said to me:
“Rise up, my love, my fair one,
And come away.
9. House where there is a shift from winter to summer (harvest)
11 For lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone.
12 The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
10. House of covenant
And the voice of the turtledove
Is heard in our land.
11. House that is productive and fruit bearing
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!
12. House that seeks His face
14 “O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
In the secret places of the cliff,
Let me see your face,
Let me hear your voice;
For your voice is sweet,
And your face is lovely