

Prayer - Food for the week

Hymn - 188 (70) God moves in a mysterious way.

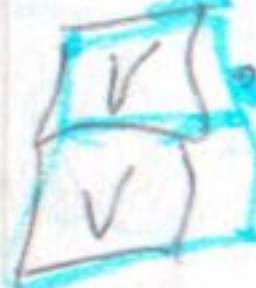
S. Item -

Reading - Rev 14. 14-20.

The Winepress outside the city

- I want to focus on these last three verses.
 - There has just been a great reaping (sickle on the earth)
 - But now we have a great gathering into the press of vine & grapes (sharp sickle on the earth)
- These are symbols in Revelation & like all the symbols of this book, we've seen them before.

- The picture is of crushing grapes underfoot in a wine press.



My Bible dictionary says this about the winepress of those days: - "The ripe fruit was gathered in baskets and was carried to the winepress. It was then placed in the upper of the two vats or receptacles of which the winepress was formed, and was subjected to the process of 'treading', which was effected by one or more men, according to the size of the vat. They encouraged one another by shouts. Their legs and garments were dyed red with the juice. The expressed juice escaped by an aperture into the lower vat or was at once collected in vessels."

- So, here's our picture. But how shall we understand it?
 - Well, let me take you all the way back.

- There are many instances, mentionings & pictures of crushing in the Bible, But none more important than that found in Gen 3.15 [v]

• This (as I'm sure you're familiar) is the first shadowy prophecy of the coming Messiah (anointed Deliverer of Israel)

• Here (like the winepress) the foot is used to crush. The Saviour crushing His & His people's enemies under foot and being bruised in the process.

- Let me show you this wine presser:

• Who is he?

• He is the one spoken of by the prophets

see Isaiah 63.3 read

Joel 3.12-16 read

- It's the same picture, and it's a terrible picture of fury, wrath & Judgement for sinners.

- In our Revelation passage, the Judgement is said to occur without the city - or outside the city.

• There was another great Judgement which occurred outside the city & with typical NT light the writer to the Hebrews explains.

[v] Heb 13.11,12 [v] map

- It is the Lord - as the blood red juice flows from the crushed grape so blood from a crushed body.

- We see it start in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The name means 'olive press'.

He had been there many times before but He reaches it now in a different aspect on His life's journey and the 'olive press' had become a winepress! (spiritually)

- ~~Mark 14.34~~ Luke 22.44 "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground"

The crushing weight of the press had begun.

- What was he undergoing? What was this weight?

A. It was iniquity (sin), but not His own. It was the iniquity of men. ^{For He was innocent.}

Isaiah 53.11 "He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied; by his knowledge shall ~~many~~ my righteous servant justify many; FOR HE SHALL BEAR THEIR INIQUITIES"

- The illustration elsewhere is shown also to be like drinking this wine. A cup for the wicked

Psalms 75.8 "For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same, but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them"

- A cup for the wicked - But why does the Perfect man drink it? ^{John 18.11} Math 20.22 "The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"

A - Because He is making an atonement (at-one-ment) ^{reconciliation} it is a substitutionary one

a VICARIOUS one - for sinners like us. look back at Isaiah 53.6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (all who would look to Him in FAITH)

- Earlier in Isaiah the wicked have been likened to 'wild grapes'. This is us.

- We make ~~excuses~~ so many excuses for our behavior. It is always someone else's fault or for some other reason than our own inherent sinfulness. When are we going to admit our own guilt before God?

- But if and when we do, it is not the end, it's the beginning.

They say you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs - or you can't make a Christian without breaking self-righteous pride.

- The deadliest of sins is pride - makes you think you're always right!

- Instead of dark moods inflicted on others, as of the whole world is to blame rather than us - let us take all our guilt to that great winepress where Christ has crushed it all away. He'll bear it away.

- But if not, the wild grape will be gathered to the vast press on that last Day. And the wicked will bear their own iniquity for ever & ever.

- In a sermon titled, "The single-Handed Conquest," Spurgeon said to think deeply about the glorious winepresser, who suffered to pay for our sins, beginning in the Garden of Gethsemane.

"Those sins which would have crushed thee to pieces, he had to tread beneath his feet. How it must have bruised his heel to tread upon those sins! O how powerfully he must have trodden on those crimes of thine, breaking them into less than nothing! How did it force from him, not sweat like ours, but drops of blood, when he could say... 'I have done it; the great work is fully accomplished, it is finished; 'I have trodden the winepress alone.' (all his disciples deserted him) Go thou ~~in~~ to the time when he commenced the shedding of his blood in Gethsemane's Garden! - Come, then, thou chief of sinners, there lie thy sins, and there lie mine, all

mingled in one mighty heap! But, the wine-presser enters, and puts his foot on them. Oh! contemplate how he presses them; dost thou see him treading thy sins to pieces?"

- Do you tremble at your sin, and the Judgement it, BUT THERE'S MANY A SLIP TWIXT CUP AND LIP! Bring upon you!

Isa 51:22 - ~~But~~ See how the cup may pass from you if you ^{accept the Saviour!}

"Thus saith thy Lord the Lord, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again."

- But see how it will be yours if you don't. Rev 14:10 "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lord."

- We see most vividly at the cross of Christ outside the city in 'the place of a skull' ^{Galgotha} ^{Scote} ^{map} the blood shed for His people.

• The wrath of God's Judgement was taken for multitudes.

- There He ^{with} bore iniquity, and crushed his & their enemies. Sin, Satan and the forces of darkness were bound. Death conquered.

- Matthew Henry's commentary we find these verses by Mr. Watts:
Triumphant and Victorious he appears,
And honour in his looks and habit wears.
How strong he treads! How stately doth he go!
Pompous and solemn is his pace.
And full of majesty, as is his face:
Who is this mighty hero-who?
Tis I who to my promise faithful stand,

I, who the powers of death; hell and the grave,
have foil'd with this all conquering hand,
I, who most ready am, and mighty too, to save
with ornamental drops bedeck'd I stood,
And wrote my victory with my enemy's blood.

So to back to our original passage Rev 14.

• Christ has come and done the work alone.

His shout (as the wine-pressers did)
has echoed down through history.

And now comes the great gathering
of his 'blood bought' people
and then the great gathering of
the wicked for the wine
press of

~~Rev 14.~~

1st hand to W. Hendriksen the Judgement Day.

- A third angel follows. He announces in very
solemn language ^(v 9 & 10) that all those who are attached
to this world are going to perish with the world.
If you choose to serve Satan, you must expect
to suffer the consequences. You cannot sin and
get away with it. The wrath of God will be
visited on those who worship the beast.

Rev 14. 20. - The Judgement is so great when
these grapes (wicked men & women) are trodden
that the Juice (blood) was deep (as high
as a horse's bridle) and wide (1600 furlongs)
That is (four x ten x ten) the number of the earth x
the number of completeness

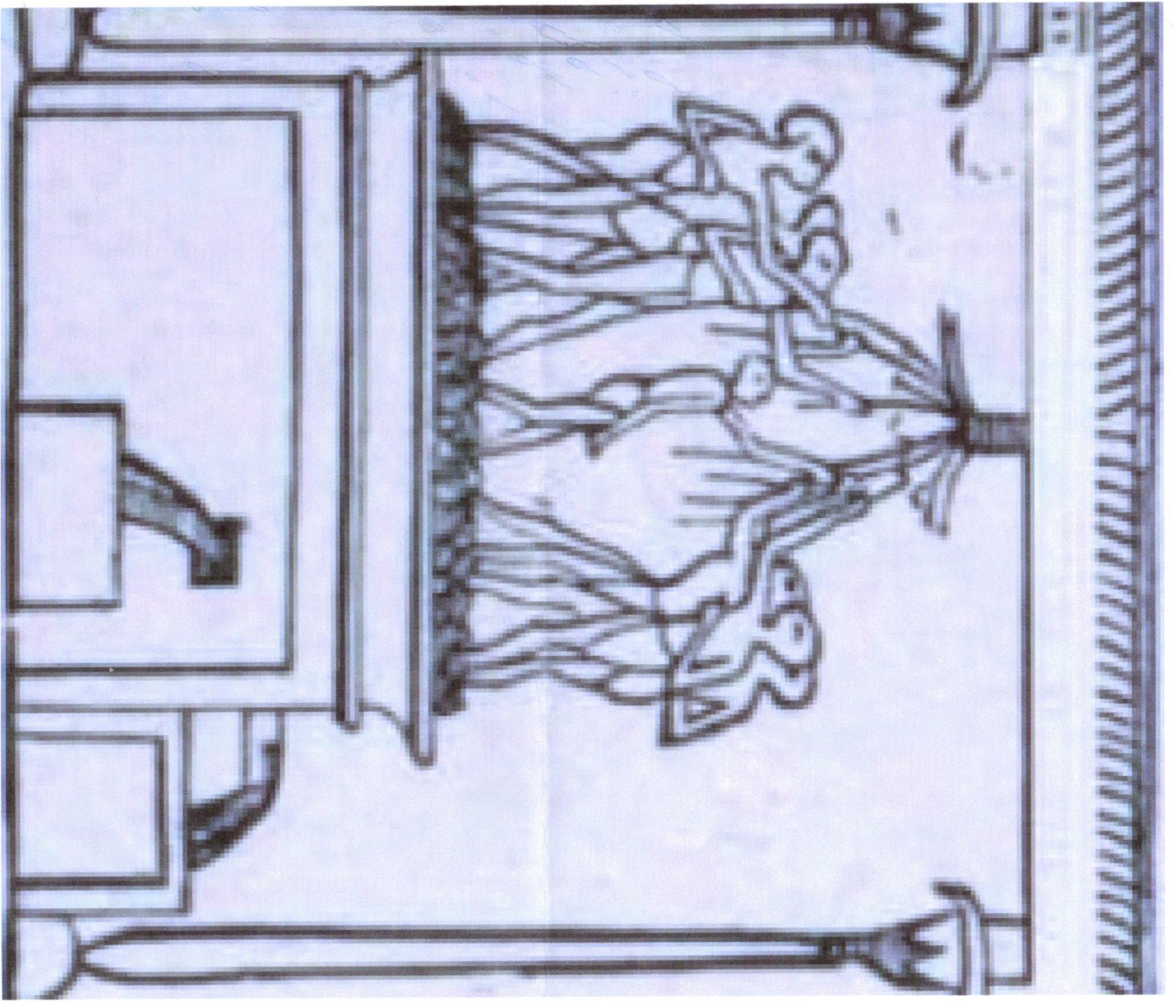
This is undoubtedly the Great Judgement Day.

Rev 19. 15 " - he treadeth the winepress of the ferocious and
wrath of Almighty God

But consider this - If Christ has already taken that wrath
for you - Can a Just God punish sin twice ?
Trust Christ and your sin is taken
away

- You'll be harvested into heaven and escape
And dwell within the walls, NOT OUTSIDE the wrath to come
See the suffering Saviour (He didn't deserve one drop
poured out on him) of wrath, but made ours way
And plead his salvation &
merits before the Just God in
prayer

- Do not the Scriptures speak to us all ?



Isaiah 53:6

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.