Vicarious Sacrifice: Review: Rev. 19:15*a*; the Metaphor, "He treads the wine press," Alludes to the Blood Spilled by the Lord's Enemies at the Second Advent; Divine Integrity Demands Intervention & Restitution by Imposing Greater Violence than Inflicted by the Dark Side

24.   Maximum violence is indicated by the phrase, "He treads the wine press." The process by which grapes are converted into wine illustrates the impact divine violence has on predator nations:

> **Wine Press. Each vineyard had its wine press, the practice being to extract the juice from the grape in the field. These presses were generally hewn out of the solid rock, and a large number of them remain at the present day. From the scanty notices contained in the Bible we gather that the wine presses of the Jews consisted of two receptacles or vats placed at different elevations, in the upper one [גַּת (*ghath*)[1]] of which the grapes were trodden, while the lower one [יֶקֶב (*yeqev*)[2]] received the expressed juice. The two vats are mentioned together only in Joel 3:13[3]—the upper vat being full of fruit, the lower one overflowing with the must [juice].**

> **Figurative. The very forceful use of the wine press as a figure is found in Isaiah 63:3–6, where Jehovah is represented as taking vengeance upon the ungodly nations. The nations are the grapes, which are cut off and put into the wine press; and the red upon his garments is the life blood of these nations.**

> **This work of wrath had been executed by Jehovah, because he had in his heart a day of vengeance, which could not be delayed, and because the year of his promised redemption had arrived. The New Testament counterpart of this passage is the destruction of antichrist and his army (Revelation 19:11, ff.). He who effects this destruction is the Faithful and True, the Logos of God.[4]**

25.   In our context, the grapes put into the upper vat and crushed by the treaders represent the armies gathered in Jezreel and advancing toward Jerusalem.

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[1] "The upper trough where grapes are pressed out, usually by treading on them" (Warren Baker and Eugene Carpenter, "גַּת," in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* [Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 2003], 218).

[2] "The upper vat [*ghath* (press)] was always wider and shallower than the lower [*yeqev*] and was the press proper, into which grapes were thrown, to be crushed by the feet of the treaders. The juice [must] flowed down through the pipe into the lower vat [*yeqev*]" (Burton Scott Easton, "יֶקֶב," in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, gen. ed. James Orr [Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956], 4:3087).

[3] "Come, tread, for the wine press is full; the vats overflow, for their wickedness is great" (Joel 3:13, NASB).

[4] Merrill F. Unger, "Wine Press," in *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, 3d ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1966), 1169.

26.   When the Lord acts as the lone Treader, the "must" will be the blood spilled by the hundreds of thousands that will fall from the thrust of His mighty sword.

27.   The verb "treads" in "He *treads* the wine press" is the prophetic future active indicative of πατέω (*patéō*): "to tread grapes in the upper vat (*ghath*)."

28.   The integrity of God requires intervention and restitution, therefore, the divine order to initiate the Second Advent has as it major incentive the imposition of the "fierce wrath of God."

29.   The word "fierce" is the noun θυμός (*thumós*): "violent" followed by the word "wrath" which is the noun ὀργή (*orgḗ*): "wrath."

30.   PRINCIPLE: Do not mess with the Jews and do not mess with anyone that has believed Jesus is the Messiah.

31.   Jesus Christ delivers the Jews trapped in Jerusalem. An earthquake severs the city with a deep fissure running east and west allowing them to escape the city.

        Zechariah 14:4 - In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. (NASB)