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## The LORD Has Broken the Rod of the Wicked

### 14: 4-8

The LORD has broken the Rod of the wicked DIG: What takes place in each of the four stanzas of this taunt song? Who rejoices? How is the antichrist described? What was his rule like? What happens now that his rule is ended? How will nature be affected? What will the entire world do? Why?

REFLECT: Is there any time in which you have experienced pride going before the fall? From your own experience, what is the relationship between pride in yourself and cruelty towards others? Why do you think that is so? What is the difference in purpose between the fear of the LORD (Proverbs 1:7) and the fear the antichrist stirred in others? How can you help others see the difference?

**In the first of four stanzas**, everything on the earth, both human beings and all of creation, break into song at the news of **the antichrist's** death. **He** insisted on having **his** way at all costs. But now **he** is thrown down to the grave once and for all. **You will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon (14:4a)**. In the context of this taunt-song, **the king of Babylon** can be none other than **the antichrist**, the one who will come to power during the Great Tribulation. **Babylon** will be the capital city of **his** earthly empire (see the commentary on **Revelation, to see link click Em - Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She Has Become a Home for Demons**).

**How the oppressor has come to an end (14:4b)! He** had mastered the technique of ruling through terror. The thought of being delivered from such terror will be almost beyond belief. The joy will be unspeakable. There is **One** more powerful than **he**, **Jesus** said: **In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33b)**. We believe in a **God** who is an overcomer, and because **He** overcame death and **the world**, we can also. The audacity of such faith is amazing. Yet that is exactly what **Isaiah** preached: The **God** of tiny Judah is **the LORD** of all the universe and before **Him** every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God (Phil 2:10-11).



**The LORD has broken the rod of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers.** The kingdom and the city of **Babylon** will be **destroyed** at the end of the Great Tribulation. The one whose **fury** would **end** is **the oppressor** who **had struck down peoples** and **subdued nations with relentless aggression (14:5-6)**. His **rod and scepter** are **broken** so **he** cannot rule any longer. As a result of **the king of Babylon's** fall, there is a song of joy around the world. **His** death would bring **rest, peace** not only to people but also to nature. **All the lands are at rest and peace; they break into singing (14:7)**. The Rabbi Sha'ul tells us that **the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth** for the return of **Messiah** and the reversal of the curse (**Gen 3:17-19**). All of **creation** will be able to breathe a sigh of relief when **the antichrist** dies. It will seem like it is too good to be true!

**Isaiah** reinforces the point of this stanza with imagery, as is often the case, with **tree** imagery. Not only people, but also **the trees** rejoice at the death of **the antichrist**. **Even the pine trees and the cedars of Lebanon exult over you and say, "Now that you have been laid low, no woodsman comes to cut us down" (14:8)**. The great cedar **trees of Lebanon** saying **they** were safe pictures that rest symbolically. No longer would **they** be in danger of being **cut down**.