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## All Your Pomp Has Been Brought Down to the Grave

### 14: 9-11

All your pomp has been brought down to the grave **DIG: How different is this picture from the one where the antichrist ruled the earth? Is ADONAI a respecter of persons? Or as far as salvation is concerned, does He give equal opportunity to all (John 3:16)? Basically, the question becomes, "Is God fair?"**

**REFLECT: What is the pomp and noise of your harps that distracts you from living for that which is really important? How, exactly, did YHVH humble the king of Babylon to fulfill this prophecy? Why should you rejoice in the fall of the king of Babylon? Do you think the LORD rejoices in this? Why?**

**In the second of four stanzas**, the soul of the king of Babylon enters into sh'ol. With an unquestionable feel for contrast, **Isaiah** moves us from the earth to the underworld. He shows us that the same event that brought rest and peace on the earth above (**14:4-8**), brought agitation and disorder to the world below. **The antichrist** is indeed the author of confusion, and causes chaos wherever **he** goes. The source of the agitation is the discovery on the part of the dead that the dreadful king who had ordered the death of many of them is, in fact, no different than they are. Although **his** glory had made **him** seem immortal, **he** must also succumb to corruption and decay.

**The grave** is pictured as a great throne room where the **leaders** and **kings** of the earth go when they die. **The antichrist** is envisioned as having died and is being met by the **spirits of the departed**, or **the kings** already in the grave. Amazed at the fate of this glorious king, whose splendor surpassed theirs, they were **all astir**. **The antichrist** thought **he** would rule **the world**, but **he** will merely be the first casualty of the Second Coming of **Jesus Christ (Second Thessalonians 2:8)**.

Then there is a sudden surprise. When **he** dies, **his** soul enters sh'ol and sh'ol **is**

stirred. **The grave below is all astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you - all those who were leaders in the world (14:9a).** The word for the **dead (KJV)** or **spirits of the departed (NIV)** means *shades*. **In Hebrew, it literally means *the powerless ones, the thin and shadowy personalities of the dead*.** Because death had destroyed the body and soul, the soul itself was but a half-life. The Jews believed that the realm of the unrighteous, unlike the righteous being at **Abraham's side (Luke 16:19-31)**, was a dusty, shadowy place where a dim reflection of the person lived on in inactivity (**Job 7:9, 17:16, 26:6; Psalm 6:5, 31:17, 88:11-12, 115:17**). Men and women still exist in hell but they are reduced to mere shadows. They have no more reality than that.

As **the antichrist** enters into the regions of hell everything stirs up. **It makes them rise from their thrones all those who were kings over the nations (14:9b).** When **the mighty king** appears, **they** suddenly rise up **from their thrones** as if to pay **their** respects, which one might expect if this was a normal lament. But instead of paying homage, **they** mock **him** by reminding **him** that the grave is the great equalizer.



**They will all respond, they will declare: You also have become weak, as we are; you have become like us (14:10)?** Did **he** also come here? **He** of *all* people? This startles even those who were **kings** on earth. **They** were surprised and astonished. Have *you* become just like us? **They** are shocked to learn that even *this* man is mortal. **They** continue **their** mocking by saying: **All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you (14:11).** Isaiah describes **his** fate by declaring that **maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you.** **His** pride was nothing more than pretty trappings on a rotting



corpse. **The kings** of the earth came out of the shadows to mock **the antichrist**, only to sink back into the darkness.

The TaNaKh looks forward and the B'rit Chadashah looks back. Therefore, the TaNaKh awaits **Yeshua Messiah** to meet the need for the resurrection of the body. Both unbelievers (see the commentary on **Revelation, to see link click Fn - The Second Resurrection**), and believers (see the commentary on **Revelation Ff - The First Resurrection**) will be resurrected. This demonstrates the progressive nature of the teachings of the Bible.

How wonderful that those who believe in **Yeshua** as their **Lord** and **Savior** will find that the grave has no hold on them, for someday we will be **away from the body and at home with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:21)**.