

Bereans Bible Institute

Module XI – Revelation

Lesson 36 – Revelation 14:14-20

Continued from Lesson 35

D. The Fourth Messenger

1. Rev. 14:14-16 announces Jesus' gathering the elect as a wheat harvest.
 - a. Described literally in Matt. 24:29-31; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 2:1-3
 - b. Described in a "harvest" parable in Matt. 13:24-30,36-43
 1. The wicked are bound first (vss. 30,40-41), which corresponds to the wicked being gathered for Armageddon at the 6th Bowl (Joel 3:1-2,9-12; Rev. 16:13-14)

E. The Fifth Messenger

1. Rev. 14:17-20 Christ's enemies destroyed at the Battle of Armageddon
 - a. Described literally in Joel 3:9-13; Zech. 14:1-7,12-13; Mal. 4:1-2; Rev. 19:11-21
 - b. "Winepress" metaphor Joel 3:9-13; Rev. 19:15
 - c. Blood up to the horses bridles for 1,600 "stadion"
 1. Two Greek nouns often confused and mistranslated (Greek nouns cannot change or interchange gender)
 - a. "stadios" (masculine) – refers to the measure of the Greek/Roman race-course, which was about 603 feet. It is often translated "furlong" and is used in Luke and John (both written to Gentile audiences) for measuring long distances (such as the distance from the Jerusalem gates to Bethany on the Mt of Olives – cf. John 11:18).
 - b. "stadion" (neuter) simply means a unit of "measure," leaving the specific unit to be defined by context.
 2. These two nouns are confused in translation because they are spelled the same when in the genitive plural form – σταδίων (stay-de-own)
 3. If this was "stadios" in Rev. 17:20, then the blood would be up to the horses bridles for nearly 200 miles.
 - a. This far exceeds the limits of the location where the battle is said to take place (the Valley of Jehoshaphat – the Kidron Valley.
 - b. The topography descends down to the Dead Sea only about 12 miles away. Five-foot-deep blood would flow downhill and empty into the Dead Sea in about 12 miles, showing that this distance cannot be correct.
 4. "Stadion" (neuter) is a "measure" and is deduced from its other occurrence in Revelation 21:16, where a "stadion" (measure) is the length of the measuring "rod" the angel used to measure the New Jerusalem.
 - a. Ezekiel provided the circumference of the New Jerusalem.
 1. The angel used a rod of six "long cubits," which is defined as a regular cubit (distance from the elbow to the fingertip – about 18 inches) plus a "span" (the width of a man's hand with fingers extended, from thumb to pinky – about 8 inches), totaling 24 inches. Thus, six "long cubits"

equals 12 feet (Ezek. 40:5). Using this 12' measuring rod, Ezekiel reported that the circumference of the restored Jerusalem was 4,500 "rods," a total of 216,000 feet in circumference (Ezek. 48:30-35).

b. Since we now know the exact circumference of the New Jerusalem from Ezekiel, John's measurement must agree.

1. The measuring rod used by the messenger that John was observing had to be 18' in length, since 12,000 rods (Rev. Rev. 21:16) divided into 216,000 feet (from Ezekiel) equals 18 feet. Both Ezekiel's 12' measuring rod and John's 18' measuring rod could easily be handled by one man for measuring.

c. Since a "measure" (stadion) in Revelation is shown to be 18' in length, the 5' deep blood will flow downhill for about 5.5 miles to the south of the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Kidron Valley), since 1,600 "measures" of 18' in length = 28,800 feet, divided by 5,280 feet per mile = 5.45 miles.