The Destruction of Babylon
PART I
Revelation 17:1-11

MAIN THOUGHT The destruction of Babylon unfolds in three phases: (1) RELIGIOUSLY (ch. 17); (2) ECONOMICALLY (ch. 18); (3) MILITARILY (ch. 19).

BABYLON DESTROYED RELIGIOUSLY

THE INVITATION (1-2).
• John is invited to witness the destruction of the HARLOT (1, 5, 15, 15) and PROSTITUTE (2, 4) – THE CITY OF BABYLON THE GREAT (5, 18).
• Spiritual adultery (Jam. 4:4) described apostate Israel (Ezek. 16:15; Hosea) in contrast to the church – the pure virgin bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2).
• This apostate church united the world – ecumenicalism (15 – many waters).
• All but the tribulation saints (6) drank the kool-aid.

THE VISION (3-6).
• Eve was a pure virgin in Eden; now the world system had become an apostate harlot in a wilderness (21:10 – Jerusalem seen from a high mountain).
• She was SITTING (saddle on the lion of Babylon to “guide and control” – AT ROBERTSON) on a scarlet beast, with blasphemous names, 7 heads, and 10 horns (13:1) – the ANTICHRIST. This begins her career prior to the midpoint of the tribulation when she is destroyed and replaced by ANTICHRIST (16).
• She is dressed like a harlot (Prov. 7:13) in contrast to a godly woman (1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:3-4).
• She is branded (13:16; 14:1; 22:4) as a (1) MYSTERY – a counterfeit of the true church of Christ (Eph. 5:32); (2) BABYLON THE GREAT (Dan. 4:30) – the tower of Babel rebuilt (ecumenicalism), nations gathered not scattered (Gen. 11:9); (3) MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES – the source of all false religions; (4) ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (GK = bdelusso – to stink).
• This false church will be the persecutor of all true believers (16:6; 18:24).

THE SEVEN HEADS (7-11).
• John WONDERED (Matt. 13:36) what it all meant; the angel will explain.
• The beast once WAS (Babylon and Rome); now IS not; WILL come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction (20:10) – ANTICHRIST (1:4).
• He will ASTONISH (13:3) those not in the book of life (13:8).
• Rome (today Western Civilization) is, and is built upon, the seven hills (Palatine, Aventine, Caelian, Esquiline, Viminal, Quirinal, Capitoline) – the seat of religious power. Many suspect the Roman Catholic Church (SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS). More likely some form of godless, all inclusive HUMANISM.
• The 7 heads are also 7 kings (kingdoms): 5 have fallen (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece), one is (6th – ROME=WESTERN CIVILIZATION), the other not yet come (7th – ANTICHRIST). Daniel saw only four kingdoms (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome).
• An 8th king, ruler of the revived Roman Empire (7th kingdom), is the ANTICHRIST who will be destroyed.