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

BABYLON DESTROYED MILITARILY

THE CONQUEROR — THE SECOND COMING (11-16).

• His NAMES: (1) FAITHFUL (Heb. 10:23; 1 John 1:9); (2) TRUE (John 1:9; 14:6); (3) UNKNOWN NAME — a new adjective (2:17; 13:12; Isa. 62:2-65:15) (4) WORD OF GOD (John 1:1, 14; Heb. 1:1-2; 1 John 1:1); (5) KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (17:14; 1 Tim. 6:14-15) on His robe and thigh (or robe covering his thigh?).

• His DESCRIPTION: (1) EYES — blazing fire (1:14); (2) HEAD — many crowns; (3) ROBE — dipped in blood (Isa. 63:3); (4) MOUTH — sharp sword (1:16; 2:16).

• His ARMIES: (1) CHRIST on His WHITE HORSE symbolizing victory (contrast Antichrist’s white horse – 6:2); (2) the SAINTS (church) on WHITE HORSES with fine LINEN, white and clean (19:8) and ANGELS (Matt. 25:31; 2 Thess. 1:7; Jude 14-15).

• His ACTIVITIES: (1) JUDGE (15:3; 16:5, 7; Isa. 11:3-4); (2) WARRIOR to fight the beast (13:4; Isa. 2:4); (3) STRIKE DOWN the nations (Psa. 2:8-9); (4) RULE (GK = poimaino – to shepherd) with an iron scepter (2:27; 12:5); (5) TREADS the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty (14:19-20; Isa. 62:2-3).

THE CONQUERED — THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON (17-21).

• Yet another angel standing in the sun (to be seen by birds?) gives a grim invitation to birds (vultures – Matt. 24:28; Luke 17:37) — come together for the GREAT SUPPER OF GOD to eat the flesh of all people: kings, generals, mighty men, horses and riders, and all men.

• What a contrast to the WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB (9).

• Then the beast, the kings, and their armies gathered to make war (Psa. 2:1-3) — the BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON (anticipated in 14:14-20; 16:14-16).

• With great economy of words, the beast and the false prophet were captured (2 Thess. 2:8). These were the DECEIVERS (Matt. 24:4-5; 1 Pet. 2:25).

• These two were thrown into the FIERY LAKE OF BURNING SULFUR: (1) these were the first two (10) here in HELL (Matt. 5:22 – GK = gehenna); (2) not annihilation (cease to exist) or purgatory (cleansing), but alive (conscious).

• The rest were killed by the sword from Christ’s mouth (15; Isa. 11:4). Their flesh was consumed by birds; their souls and spirits went to HADES where all the wicked are held for final judgment (1:18; 20:13-14; Luke 16:23).