

a statement in verse 17 where it refers to the Medes as the people who were particularly raised up to overthrow the city of Babylon.

Verse 12 could easily be misconstrued. There are other passages in which we read about a man being the one to whom God is to bring victory. We read about a man being a shadow in the midst of the terrific heat. There are other such expressions in the Scripture, and one might easily think ~~of~~ verse 12 is similar but that is not the case. It is simply describing the terrific nature of the destruction and devastation. When gold and silver and precious stones are of no ~~value~~ value, all that is needed is additional fighting men. It reminds us of a statement in Shakespeare's play, "my kingdom for a horse". It shows the nature of the situation when a fighting man is worth more than all the money that one could possibly gather.

After this section we have verses 19 to 22 which begin with a specific reference to ~~God~~ Babylon and which show the future of the great place which was the metropolitan center of the world, the headquarters of the great city of Babylon, and show that in this future this place is to be utterly desolate, a symbol of the devastation which inevitably comes to those forces which raise themselves up against God. Thus if we have the tumult and the overthrow described in verse 2 to 18, verses 19 to 22 might be indicated simply by the word "death". Here there is stark silence and darkness following the tumult and devastation. Here that which had been the glory of the kingdoms and the beauty of the Chaldees' excellencies is like the situation when the Lord overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. The picture which is given here is one which has been indeed true of the great ruined fields of Babylon through the ages. It was not something which came to pass immediately after Cyrus' conquest. The city was comparatively untouched at that time. It was only years later that it was deserted and a new city built some distance away from it. Later on Alexander the Great made an attempt to rebuild Babylon at the old site, but the attempt came to nothing. There is today a modern Arabic village as part of the remains of Babylon. The greater part of