

Revelation 18—The history, future and fall of mystery Babylon, the evil economic system that started with Nimrod and the Tower of Babel—Part 1

Setting the scene

We will start by going over the main points to give the background to Revelation chapters 17 and 18.

The book of Revelation is about a seven year period of history. It's a seven year period that immediately precedes the second coming of Jesus Christ and it tells us what's going to happen in the world during those fateful seven years. And this is not a number of years that was just plucked out of thin air. God predicted an allotment of time for His people Israel. He allotted Israel, through the prophet Daniel, 490 years. He predicted that at the exact end of 483 years He would stop His time clock with that allotment on it with seven years left on it—because that would be the time that they would reject Jesus as the Messiah. On the exact 173,880th day, which was 483 biblical lunar years (360 days/yr), that was when Jesus allowed Himself to be proclaimed as the Messiah as He rode a donkey into Jerusalem. And that clock still has 7 years allotted to Israel left on it. The book of Daniel (9:27) tells us how that seven years is going to be started again, how it's going to unfold, and what's going to happen during that time. We have talked before that the seven years will start, that is, God's Israel clock will start ticking again, when the antichrist confirms the peace treaty with Israel for seven years. This won't happen until after the Rapture happens, when the true church, made up of genuine believers, will be snatched away to meet Jesus in the air, receiving their glorified bodies and then going on to Heaven to watch the events of the tribulation from Heaven. We, the church, will then come back with Jesus when He returns at His second coming and He defeats His enemies at the battle of armageddon. He then rules and reigns for 1,000 years on the earth—the Millennial reign, God's kingdom established on earth.

Revision: Mystery Babylon false religious system

Over the last two weeks we learned about Mystery Babylon, the false religious system described in Revelation 17. Here is the main description of her:

Revelation 17:3-5 NKJV

So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. ⁵ And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY,
BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH

V 5 **MYSTERY**: Whenever you hear in the Bible that something is a mystery, it means this it is something very important to listen to and understand. The word for “mystery” is the Greek word *mysterion*. It means secret, a divine secret, something above human intelligence, a secret doctrine. It came from the ancient Greek secret fraternities (fraternity: a group of people sharing a common profession or interests), and there were always *mysterions* for every one of these Greek fraternities. An example of a fraternity with so-called secrets today would be the freemasons. They have their secrets which you can only know as you become initiated into their false religion. There are many more examples. Therefore, *mysterion* means “something that can only be known by the initiated members, but not understood by those who are not.

In the Bible it’s used in the sense that a mystery is something that a believer in Christ could understand, but the world cannot. They can hear the words, but they can’t understand the real and deep meaning—it must be taught by the Holy Spirit. It is also usually something that was only revealed in the New Testament.

Other examples of mysteries in the bible include:

- The gentile church—Ephesians 3:1-12
- The rapture—1 Corinthians 15:51
- The church being the bride of Christ—Ephesians 5:32
- Christ Jesus living inside of us—Colossians 1:26-27

So, it’s interesting that John starts off by introducing this woman as a “mystery”. It’s something that will be explained later by the angel because it hasn’t been explained clearly in the Old Testament.

Babylon—following it’s thread throughout the bible

So where did the religious mystery Babylon and the economic/political mystery Babylon come from?

It all started in the plains of Shinar. That is the place where organised false religion first started. So when John says “Mystery Babylon”, he’s talking about man’s false religion, as an organised system, which started in Babylon in the plains of Shinar. This mystery religion permeated and followed through all the following world powers, and will reach its worst in our near future.

So this is what it means when it says that she is “the Mother of All Harlots (harlots: false religious systems) and the abominations of the earth (abominations: the worst kinds of sins). It all came from there.

The beast with seven heads

As we covered over the last 2 weeks, the seven heads represent sequential world empires—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Mede and Persian, Grecian, Roman and finally the future or revived Roman empire—the Roman Empire phase two. All these were precisely predicted, and the only one that it didn’t predict would be destroyed was the Roman empire, phase 1 so to speak. This is the Roman empire that has come

and gone. In actual fact, it was never defeated or destroyed, it just faded away and went into a mystery form. It ceased to be a physical empire, but it continued to have a mystery religious form—it's influence is still there even if it doesn't have a centralised location. But soon, and it may have already started, out of the ashes of the old Roman empire will arise a world power ruled by 10 kings or regions. The antichrist will be of Roman origins.

Origin of the Mystery Babylon false religious system

Revelation 17:5 pinpointed what would be the religious form of this revived Roman empire. We saw how it talked about MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Then Revelation 17:18 says:

“And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns [present tense, meaning at the time when John wrote this] over the kings of the earth.”

This identifies the woman, the whore, the harlot, as Rome. The other titles are figures of speech that are used consistently in the bible to describe false religious systems. So when it calls this woman MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH, it's talking about this religious system, that's a mystery because it actually started in ancient Babylon, and it continued to be passed from one gentile power to another. This happened until this mystery religious system became identified with a city, and the city was Rome. It will again be identified with Rome during the Tribulation.

Revelation 18—Mystery Babylon Economic System

So, over the last two weeks we have been looking at the mystery Babylon false religion, including its relationship with the mystery Babylon economic and political system, and it's coming destruction at the hands of the antichrist and the 10 kings.

This week we look at Revelation 18, the destruction of the Mystery Babylon economic system. This would include a one-world currency, one world banking system, one-world economic/tax system, and a one-world government. You all know how dependant we are on computers now. Imagine if the whole world depended on just one centralised monetary/commerce and banking system. If that went down, or in this case is completely destroyed, imagine how the entire world's economic system would instantly collapse. Your electronic money would no longer exist (assuming a cashless society). You would no longer be able to be paid a wage or receive payment for goods or services. All wealth would be instantly wiped out because your bank account would no longer exist. This is the reason for the great mourning and grief that will be expressed when the mystery Babylon economic system will be destroyed. Even today, people are so connected to or in bondage to money, pleasure, things, and the lifestyle that money brings. We will look more into this today.

We'll read Revelation 18:1-7, then read one Old Testament prophecy that is quoted in Revelation 18 and see how it all fits together. We'll then continue to read the chapter and get the big picture and an application for us today as we live in the same world system even today. Then next week we'll go back to the start of the chapter and break it down verse by verse—there are some very powerful warnings and personal applications that we can get from this chapter.

Revelation 18:1-3 NKJV

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! ³ For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury [sensuality and lust].”

This again ties the economic system to the religious system—they have a very close relationship, especially in this future time which is not far from now. It most probably has to do with some future form of the European Union. But in chapter 18 it focuses on the economic or business side of this system.

Revelation 18:4-8 NKJV

⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. ⁵ For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. ⁶ Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. ⁷ In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously [sensually and lustfully], in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ ⁸ Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

Remember that if we study the bible, especially the book of Revelation, your best tool is a concordance. Why? Because all of these terms, that the apostle John under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit uses, all these terms are figures of speech that are explained somewhere else in the bible. Another study tool is the blue letter bible app. Another one is the bible gateway app.

v **7 For she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow’**: Revelation 18:7-8 is a quote from Isaiah 47:7-8. We’ll read from verse 1 in Isaiah 47 to get the context of this quote.

Isaiah 47:1-12 NKJV

“Come down and sit in the dust,
O virgin daughter of Babylon;
Sit on the ground without a throne,
O daughter of the Chaldeans!
For you shall no more be called
Tender and delicate.

- 2 Take the millstones and grind meal.
Remove your veil,
Take off the skirt,
Uncover the thigh,
Pass through the rivers.
- 3 Your nakedness shall be uncovered,
Yes, your shame will be seen;
I will take vengeance,
And I will not arbitrate with a man.”

- 4 As for our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is His name,
The Holy One of Israel.
- 5 “Sit in silence, and go into darkness,
O daughter of the Chaldeans;
For you shall no longer be called
The Lady of Kingdoms.
- 6 I was angry with My people;
I have profaned My inheritance,
And given them into your hand.
You showed them no mercy;
On the elderly you laid your yoke very heavily.

[The Babylonians treated the Israelites badly when in captivity.]

- 7 And you said, ‘I shall be a lady forever,’
So that you did not take these things to heart,
Nor remember the latter end of them.
- 8 “Therefore hear this now, **you who are given to pleasures,**
Who dwell securely,
Who say in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one else besides me;
I shall not sit as a widow,
Nor shall I know the loss of children’;
- 9 But these two things shall come to you
In a moment, in one day [sudden judgement]:
The loss of children, and widowhood.
They shall come upon you in their fullness
Because of the multitude of your sorceries,
For the great abundance of your enchantments.

v 9 Notice that it’s the suddenness of this Judgement that links it to the second coming of Christ, because it talks about a judgement that is coming suddenly (**In a moment, in one day**). Yes, it applied when the Real city of Babylon was taken or conquered in one day by the Medes and Persians, but because of what John wrote in Revelation 18:6-7, we see a second fulfilment, but this time applied to mystery Babylon, not the literal Babylon. Just like the real city of Babylon fell in a day, so will the economic mystery Babylon. The one world economic system in place during the tribulation will be wiped out in one day (Revelation 18:8). This is not just one country going down and having a ripple effect, this is the entire world’s economy going down, and there will be no recovery. Imagine, no wages, no banking, no monetary system, no way of buying or selling at all, because the system that ran everything was destroyed.

So what city or region will be destroyed? Mystery Babylon religion and economic system/government is Rome, the headquarters of the final world empire, the revived Roman empire. How do we know? Revelation 17:18—“And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.” Back in the day, Rome was both the economic/political capital of the world, as well as the religious capital of the world, so it make sense to me that it would be the same in the future revived Roman empire.

v 9 Because of the multitude of your sorceries: It's kind of like black magic, associated with a demonic kind of worship.

v 9 For the great abundance [or great power] of your enchantments. This refers to casting spells. They were able to cast powerful spells through their false religious system.

Most of us have never come in contact with real false religion. Religion that has real, but demonic, power behind it. Satan has and will be given authority to do miracles, and this display of supernatural power is already drawing many into Satan's web. In today's day and age where most people are basically completely biblically illiterate, people have no way of discerning what is good or bad, and so they just get hooked on or sucked into what they think is the real thing—a source of genuine supernatural power, but not realising or not caring that it is Satanic in origin and will lead them to destruction, to eternal damnation.

However, it says that even though there was genuine supernatural power, it would all be destroyed—the mystery Babylon false religious system and the mystery Babylon economic system would both be destroyed.

Isaiah 47 continued:

- 10 "For you have trusted in your wickedness;
You have said, 'No one sees me';
Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you;
And you have said in your heart,
'I am, and there is no one else besides me.'
- 11 Therefore evil shall come upon you;
You shall not know from where it arises.
And trouble shall fall upon you;
You will not be able to put it off.
And desolation shall come upon you suddenly,
Which you shall not know.
- 12 "Stand now with your enchantments
And the multitude of your sorceries,
In which you have **laboured from your youth**

v 12 laboured from your youth: we should note that Isaiah is pointing out that mystery Babylon religious system, this strain of false, demonic religion, started in the plains of Shinar, at the Tower of Babel, in Iraq. There the first organised religion was invented or concocted. Here, God traces all false religion back to Babylon. That is, He is talking about mystery Babylon, that it would be this false religion that would keep permeating the gentile powers all the down the ages, and it would go from on kingdom to another kingdom.

The beast with the seven heads represents the last seven of these kingdoms: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medes and Persians, Greeks, Roman empire phase 1, and lastly the Roman empire phase 2 (the revived Roman empire with it's ten kings), when it will come to real power, to it's ultimate fulfilment.

Isaiah 47 continued:

Perhaps you will be able to profit,
Perhaps you will prevail.

¹³ You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels;
Let now the astrologers, the stargazers,
And the monthly prognosticators
Stand up and save you
From what shall come upon you.

The Chaldeans were in the land before the Babylonians, and the Chaldeans became a special cast of astrological priests. There were the ones who were big in the early empires. They were used as advisers to the kings and so forth.

v ¹³ **Astrologers, the stargazers, And the monthly prognosticators:** Isn't it interesting that the horoscope goes all the way back to Babylon, that it's a part of the mystery Babylon religion.

The Mystery Babylon World Economic System Destroyed

Revelation 18:8-23 NKJV

⁸ **Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.**

⁹ **“The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,**
¹⁰ **standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’**

¹¹ **“And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: ¹² merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; ¹³ and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, [and BMWs and Porsches and Commodores] and bodies and souls of men.**

This represents all the world's commerce, controlled by the one-world economic and political system, based in Rome, controlled by the Revived Roman empire, and eventually by the antichrist.

¹⁴ The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.

v ¹⁴ Notice how temporary the allures of this world are. The souls of the lost long for and seek their satisfaction completely in the things of this world. Imagine the emptiness they will experience when all they live for is completely destroyed—and it will be a complete and eternal destruction—**and you shall find them no more at all.**

¹⁵ The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, ¹⁶ and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! ¹⁷ For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance ¹⁸ and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’ ¹⁹ “They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’” ²⁰ “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”

This is a critical turning point—God is judging this system, first and foremost, for what they have done to true believers.

²¹ Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon [mystery Babylon, not literal Babylon] shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. ²² The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. ²³ The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.

v 23 **Sorcery** Greek: *pharmakeia*—Our word “pharmacy” comes from this word. It comes from a root word that means to mix poisons. But *pharmakeia*, in the first century when this was written, came to be associated with using drugs as part of occultic worship. And so it’s a kind of a cult worship mixed with drugs. This fits right in to today’s society, where drugs are being more and more accepted.

One of the reasons God continued to judge the world is this:

Revelation 9:20-21 NKJV

But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their **sorceries** or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Pharmakeia the worship of the occult associated with drug use will be one of the prevailing trends of the end times. This is where we are heading today. It’s bad now, but it will only get worse. Drugs open people’s minds to the occult, and thus they become more susceptible to being deceived—so don’t be deceived, stay away from drugs. Also, for those who have been involved with drugs, you know that it’s an expensive habit, and many drug users resort to theft to support their habit.

Revelation 8:23 ...for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived—this can be applied in a broader sense, to mean that mystery Babylon false religion mixed sorcery in with Christianity in order to deceive people. Whole nations were deceived by it.

Revelation 18:24 NKJV

And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”

v 24 **And in her:** This refers to the mystery Babylon political and economic system, which is tied in to the religious system.

One thing to remember. At the end of Rev 17 it says that the antichrist would turn on the woman, and he would destroy her. Well, he doesn't destroy the city of Rome, he only destroys the system of religion that will be associated with Rome.

Conclusion: Is this the same Babylon in Chapter 18 as is described in chapter 17?

No, but it can be confusing because the two systems, religious and economic, are so intertwined, so interconnected. There are definite similarities between mystery Babylon religion as described in Revelation 17 and the mystery Babylon economic/political system described in Revelation 18.

- both are under the rule of Antichrist,
- both have ruling queens,
- both are filled with blasphemy,
- both hate the saints and shed their blood,
- both are associates with kings in fornication, and
- both are under judgment and destroyed.

However, there are also some significant differences:

Mystery Babylon false religion (Revelation 17)

- Symbol: Harlot woman
- Woman, whore, mother
- Guilty of religious abominations
- Destroyed by a political power that previous supported her
- The people of God are never described as being a part of it.
- Judged at the midpoint of the tribulation

Commercial Babylon (Revelation 18)

- Symbol: Great city
- Habitation: great city, marketplace
- Guilty of greed and self-indulgence
- Destroyed by sudden act of God
- The people of God are told to come out of it.
- Judged at the end of the tribulation

So basically, the mystery Babylon religious and economic systems are intertwined, yet distinct. One of the biggest distinctions is that Religious Babylon of Revelation 17 is judged at the mid-point of the seven-year period of tribulation. Commercial Babylon is judged at the end of the seven year period of tribulation.

The call to come out of Babylon is relevant for today, because Satan uses materialism to trap many believers today. The love of money is described as a root of all evil in:

1 Timothy 6:10 NKJV

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The call to come out of Babylon is even more relevant for the Tribulation, because the stakes are much higher—if you take the mark of the beast you are eternally doomed.

Application:

I hope you can see that these mystery Babylon religious and economic systems are alive and well today. They may not be located in one central place, but they are being used by Satan to deceive the whole world.

1 John 2:15-17, 28-29 NLT paraphrase

¹⁵ Do not love this **world** [Greek: *kosmos*—world system controlled by Satan] nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world [system], you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ **And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.**

²⁸ **And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when He returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from Him in shame.**

²⁹ Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children.

John 2:15 **Do not love this world** [Greek: *kosmos*]—not just the physical rocks and trees and water, but the world system. It literally means do not love this world system—it is evil, Satanic.

From *kosmos* we get our word cosmetic. It means to adorn or embellish or an ornament. Satan has painted the world system as being very attractive, but it leads to death.

Notice what the world wants from us (v 15—Do not love...): **love—our affections.** This love is expressed in time, attention, and expense. We are encouraged and persuaded to give our time, attention, and money to the things of this world instead of the things of God.

If you love the world, there are rewards to be gained. You may find a place of prestige, of status, of honour, of comfort. The world system knows how to reward its lovers.

At the same time, even at their best the rewards that come from this world last only as long as we live. *The problem is that though we gain prestige, status, honour, and comfort of this world, we lose the prestige, status, honour, and comfort of heaven.*

v 15 **Nor the things it offers you [the things in the world]:** The world buys our love with the great **things** it has to give us: cars, homes, gadgets, and the status that goes with all of them, can really make our hearts at home in the world.

v 15 **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him:** Simply, love for the world is incompatible with love for the Father. Therefore if one claims to love God and yet loves the world, there is something wrong with his claim to love God.

Through the centuries, Christians have dealt with the magnetic pull of the world in different ways. At one time it was thought that if you were a really committed Christian and really wanted to love God instead of the world, you would leave human society and live as a monk or a nun out in a desolate monastery.

This approach, and other approaches that seek to take us *out of* the world, have two problems. The first problem is that we bring the world with us into our monastery. The other problem is that Jesus intended us to be *in the world* but not *of the world*. We see this in His prayer for us in John 17:14–18.

v 17 **The world is passing away:** This reveals the folly of worldliness. What we invest into the world we invest into what cannot last because **the world is passing away**. As we saw with the example of the tower of Babel, the world *never* wins out against God, though by some appearances it does.

v 17 **The world is passing away.** It is not a prayer, not a wish, and not a spiritual sounding desire. It is a *fact*. **The world is passing away**, and we must live our lives and think our thoughts aware of this *fact*.

v 17 **The world is fading [passing] away:** This is powerfully illustrated by the life of Lot in Genesis chapters 13, 14, and 19. Lot attached himself to a true spiritual man, named Abraham. Yet he was selfish and chose for himself what seemed the most lucrative, without considering the spiritual implications of what he was doing. He became financially prosperous, but pitched his tent toward a wicked, worldly city—Sodom. After a while, he was sitting in the gates of the city as one of Sodom's civic leaders. He had worldly status, influence, wealth, and comfort. Yet, it was all taken away in a moment when the judgment of God came upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot put all his eggs in the wrong basket, and was burned by the fact that **the world is passing away**.

v 17 **He who does the will of God abides forever:** This stands in strong contrast to the passing world. Because some things are *forever*, it is much wiser to invest our lives into that which cannot be lost: doing **the will of God**.

We are in regular contact with three eternal things: the Holy Spirit of God, the people around you, and the eternal words recorded in the book you hold. Time, attention, and expense put into those things pays *eternal* rewards.

1 John 2:28 NLT paraphrase

And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame.

There will be a price to pay for living our own way.

Remember our motivation for serving God and forsaking the world system—gratitude for the love that Jesus demonstrated on the cross when He died for us. We don't "got to" forsake the world system, but we "get to", and as we do, we draw closer to Jesus.

I'll finish with Jude 20-21 NKJV

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

This is what communion is all about—remembering what Jesus has already done for us, and what glories await us when He returns for us at the rapture. Let us not forget what God has done for us. The more we love God, the less we will love the world. The more we love the world, the less we will love God.