

Revelation, Part 21

Babylon

Rev 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

3 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.

6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

7 But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

9 “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

12 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. 13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. 14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the

Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

15 Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. 16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. 17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

With chapters 17 and 18 we have another parenthetical insert into the chronological narrative of Revelation. The details and events we are about to look at take place over a period spanning most of the Tribulation. They fill in the detail of what has been happening on Earth. The subjects we will be exploring can sometimes be very complex, so buckle your seatbelts.

Rev 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

One of the seven angels (in chap. 16) who had one of the seven bowls invited John to witness the punishment of the great prostitute, “who sits on many waters”. This evil woman symbolizes the religious system of Babylon, and the waters symbolize “peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages” (v. 15). The angel informed John that the kings of the earth had committed adultery with the woman. In other words, they had become a part of the religious system which she symbolized. But according to verse 18, the woman is also a “city which reigns over the kings of the earth”. We will deal with that later.

Rev 17:3 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:

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John was then taken in the Spirit (or better, “in [his] spirit,” i.e., in a vision, not bodily) to the wilderness where he saw the woman herself. “The wilderness” is more accurately translated as just “wilderness” without the definite article. The word means a desolate and uninhabited place, which is why some translators translate it as “desert”. I can’t help but think there is some symbolism attached to the choice of the place where John was taken in his vision. Perhaps it symbolized the spiritual void occupied by this woman.

She was sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names. The beast had 7 heads and 10 horns. This beast is an obvious reference to the world government (13:1). The 7 heads seem to refer to prominent rulers, which will be detailed in verses 9-11. The 10 horns are later defined (17:12) as 10 kings who had “not yet received a kingdom.” (We will look at that closer when we get there.)

The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and was glittering with gold, precious stones, and pearls. Her adornment is similar to that of religious trappings of ritualistic churches today. While purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones, and pearls can all represent beauty and glory in relation to the true faith, here they reveal a false religion that prostitutes the truth. In her hand, the woman held a golden cup “filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries” (“the wine of her adulteries” in v. 2). This confirms previous indications that her character and life are symbolic of false religion confirmed by the words written on her forehead, “Mystery Babylon the great, the mother of prostitutes, and of the abominations of the earth.” The NASB and NIV are probably correct in separating the word “mystery” from the title which follows because the word “mystery” is not a part of the title itself; it describes the title. In Greek, the word refers to something formerly unknown but now revealed. For example, the Church was a “mystery” (mysterion), kept secret until its revealing during the Church Age.

Mystery Babylon

Before we can understand Babylon and who, what, and where is Babylon, we need to look at some history. It all begins with this “Mystery Babylon,” which is not something that shows up for the first time during the Tribulation. Mystery Babylon or the Babylonian Mysteries have been with us since soon after Noah and the flood. Not only was she with us then, but she is with us right now! Today! It is all around us and found in religions all over the world in one form or another, including Christianity. What we will be seeing here in Revelation, however, is the final version of Mystery Babylon personified as a woman “sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns ... 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”. And we will see God’s judgment of her.

Mystery Babylon is a title given to a pervasive and perverse system of false religion that focuses on idolatry. It is Satan’s system designed many thousands of years ago to deceive mankind and make it difficult to identify God’s true plan for mankind. It deceives even believers, captures them in its tentacles, and holds them in its evil system, preventing them from having even a minimally effective spiritual life, and often even denying them salvation.

Mystery Babylon is first and foremost a religious system, but she is so intertwined with the economics of the Tribulation that she will also be seen as an economic system. And as we saw in verse 18, Babylon is also a city. Mystery Babylon, the religious system, will reach its peak of power during the first half of the Tribulation. She influences and dominates the civil powers during the Tribulation (riding the scarlet beast) for a while, but then we will see her destruction about halfway through the seven years.

Mystery Babylon, of course, comes out of that ancient city named Babylon in what is modern-day Iraq. It was originally called Bab-El, later Babel, and eventually Babylon. Bab-El means “gate to God” and Babel means “confusion”. The founder of Bab-El was Nimrod or Nimrod-bar-Cush. He was the son of Cush who was the son of Ham, the son of Noah. Noah brought Ham through the flood, but evidently, Ham also brought with him some of the beliefs of the culture that God destroyed with the flood, namely idolatry. His name means “swarthy,” “darkened,” or more literally “sunburnt”. The name indicates the state of his soul as darkened. Ham

begat a son named Cush, “the black one,” and he became the father of Nimrod, the apostate leader of his generation.

Nimrod founded Bab-El and constructed a tower, the Tower of Babel. It was built with sun-dried bricks and slime for mortar, which represents an imitation of the truth, rather than with stone and mortar, which represents a solid foundation and building method. This is depicted in Genesis as an act of human pride and a rebellion against God.

Gen 10:8-12 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.” 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, 12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).

Gen 11:1 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” 8 So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Babylon became prominent under Hammurabi (1728-1686 BC) and experienced its greatest glory under Nebuchadnezzar about 600 years before Christ. The story of the city and the empire have been deciphered from thousands of cuneiform tablets unearthed by archeologists.

Ancient lore tells us that the wife of Nimrod was the infamous Semiramis The First. She was reputed to be the foundress of the Babylonian Mysteries and the high priestess of idolatry. Semiramis and the religious system she founded became the fountainhead of idolatry and the mother of every heathen and pagan system in the world. This religious system spread in various forms to the entire world and is still with us today, as we shall see.

The system is built on that promise in Genesis 3:15 concerning the seed of the woman, where God tells Satan, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (seed) and her offspring (seed); he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." This was the first mention of a promised redeemer from God. That promise was an obvious threat to Satan's continued control of Earth and mankind, thus he had to find a way to stop it. One such attempt was by having Cain kill Abel who was the firstborn and the potential fulfillment of the seed promise to Eve. That didn't work, as Eve bore Seth. Satan had other plans, one being this Babylonian Mystery.

Tradition claims that Semiramis bore a son whom she declared was miraculously conceived, and when he was presented to the people, he was received as the promised deliverer. His name was Tammuz, and it was the worship of Tammuz that Ezekiel protested in the days of the Babylonian captivity. The worship of Tammuz is also seen in the worship of Baal, which is another offshoot of Mystery Babylon.

Ezek 8:9 And He (God) said to me, "Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there." 10 So I went in and saw, and there—every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel portrayed all around on the walls. 11 And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up. 12 Then He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, 'The Lord does not see us, the Lord has forsaken the land.'" 13 And He said to me, "Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing." 14 So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the Lord's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.

Israel had been sucked deeply into idol worship, specifically the Babylonian Mystery.

The rites of worship were secret and only initiates were allowed instruction. The purpose was to deceive mankind so they would not recognize the true seed of the woman, and to discredit the legitimacy of Christ and the Cross, some atheists today will point to this and say Christians merely adopted pagan beliefs. They would only be half wrong, as we shall see.

From Babylon, the mysteries spread to all surrounding areas. Everywhere it was the mother and child cult and its practices were disgusting and immoral as suggested by the Ezekiel passage above. And then we have this in Jeremiah where God is speaking ...

Jer 7:16-18 “Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you. 17 Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? 18 The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.”

The cakes were little round cakes. This worshiping the “queen of heaven” is also mentioned in Jeremiah 44 where he challenges the Jews in Egypt.

Jer 44:15 Then all the men who knew that their wives had made offerings to other gods, and all the women who stood by, a great assembly, all the people who lived in Pathros in the land of Egypt, answered Jeremiah: 16 “As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, we will not listen to you. 17 But we will do everything that we have vowed, make offerings to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we did, both we and our fathers, our kings and our officials, in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, and prospered, and saw no disaster. 18 But since we left off making offerings to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.” 19 And the women said, “When we made offerings to the queen of heaven and

poured out drink offerings to her, was it without our husbands' approval that we made cakes for her bearing her image and poured out drink offerings to her?"

Jer 44:25 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: You and your wives have declared with your mouths, and have fulfilled it with your hands, saying, 'We will surely perform our vows that we have made, to make offerings to the queen of heaven and to pour out drink offerings to her.'

The image of the queen of heaven and the babe in her arms was seen everywhere, and idols depicting the mother and babe have been found around the world. Everywhere the symbols were the same, though sometimes with different names according to local languages, such as ...

- It was the mystery religion of Phoenicia, and they spread it in their travels.
- Ashtoreth and Tammuz of the Phoenicians became
- Isis and Horus of Egypt, and that became
- Aphrodite and Eros of Greece then
- Venus and Cupid of Italy
- And many other places

In about 1,000 years, it became the religion of the world, at least that part of the world that rejected Divine revelation.

There were countless lesser mysteries linked to the mother and child theme and were part of the system of idol worship. Among them...

- The establishment of a celibate priesthood and nuns
- Doctrines of purgatorial purification after death
- Salvation by numerous sacraments
- Priestly absolution
- The sprinkling of holy water
- The offering of round cakes to the queen of heaven
- Dedication of virgins to the gods was also sanctified prostitution
- Weeping for Tammuz for 40 days before the great festival of Ishtar, when it was said she received her son Tammuz back from the dead. ("Easter" is a transliteration of Istar.) It was taught that Tammuz was slain by a wild boar and brought back to life. All this was practiced 500 years before Christ.

- To Tammuz, the egg was sacred, depicting the mystery of his resurrection.
- The evergreen was set up to celebrate his birth during the winter solstice.
- A yule log was burned with other observances. Christians adopted the winter solstice and yule log to celebrate the birth of Christ. Evidence suggests Christ was born during the celebration of Sukkot (Tabernacles) which is in October, but the winter solstice was adopted to celebrate Christ's birth.
- The sign of the cross originated with Mystery Babylon, symbolizing the idea of a life-giving principle and as the first letter of his name.

None of this originated with Christianity! This is the system that God called Abram out of when he was told to leave his home and go to the land He would show him. It is the same cult that Israel was in constant conflict with. Under Jezebel, a Phoenician princess, it was grafted into what was left of the religion of Israel in the northern kingdom in the days of Ahab and was the cause of Israel going into captivity. Baal worship was the Canaanitish form of this system. Baal was the sun god, the life-giver, and identical to Tammuz.

When the city and temples of Babylon were destroyed, the high priest and his temple priests fled with their vessels and images to Pergamos where the symbol of the great serpent was set up as the emblem of "hidden mysteries". We saw this in the letter to the church at Pergamos back in Revelation 2.

Rev 2:12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. 15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

“Balaam” and “doctrine of the Nicolaitans” are references to forms of idol worship that came out of Mystery Babylon.

Crowns in the shape of a fish head were worn by the chief priests of the Babylonian cult to honor the fish god, Dagon. The crowns bore the word “Pontifex,” which means “bridge,” “bridge builder,” or “keeper of the bridge,” symbolic of the “bridge” between man and Satan. It originated as a title used by religious leaders of the Babylonian cult in the Roman Empire and was later adopted by the Roman emperors as the Latin title “Pontifex Maximus,” which means “Major Keeper of the Bridge.” This title was used up through the time of Constantine the Great. The same title was later used by the bishop of Rome. The pope today is called the “pontiff,” which comes from “pontifex”.

When the teachers of the Babylonian mystery religions moved from Pergamum to Rome, they were influential in paganizing Christianity and the source of many so-called religious rites which have crept into ritualistic churches. It was a common practice in the Roman Empire once Christianity became the state religion that when heathen tribes were defeated and captured as the empire extended its borders, the tribal chief was forced to profess Christianity and be baptized. Following that, the entire tribe was forced to profess faith in Christ and be baptized. This forced “profession” of faith was generally meaningless and brought many into Christianity who were not true believers. As a result, many of the idolatrous practices of these heathen religions were also brought into Christianity. One example is that these new “converts” were used to having idols to worship which were noticeably absent in Christianity at that time. These new heathen “converts” asked where were the gods and “heroes” of their “new faith” that they could worship them. Thus the many icons and images of “saints” came into being in churches all over Christianity to satisfy this “need,” and idolatry entered the faith.

As we have seen, there are many references to this system in the Bible in one form or another. It did not always look like the original, as it took many forms, but all were offshoots of the original. The number of traditional practices that we have in Christianity today that came directly from this system is testimony to the pervasiveness of this evil. We accept it, but in reality, it is the camel’s nose under the tent on a cold night. Soon the whole stinking camel is inside the warm tent.

Rev 17:6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

If you haven't figured it out by now, the main personifications of Mystery Babylon in recent history and even today are the Roman church, the Eastern/Greek/Russian Orthodox church, and the Church of England and their many offshoots. During the Tribulation, the woman will be an amalgam of what is left of these denominations and Protestant churches all rolled into one ecumenical monster that in no way represents the truth. I doubt other religions like Buddhism and Islam are very likely to ever fully merge into this ecumenical religion other than in a symbolic manner. If they do, it will be temporary.

But what about the Rapture? Don't Christians get removed before the Tribulation begins? Yes, they do — truly born-again believers, real Christians, not nominal Christians. One day after the Rapture there will be many people who were even frequent church-goers of all denominations wondering where some of their friends went. There will be all manner of "explanations," official and unofficial, for the "Great Disappearance," in attempts to explain it away. Those left behind will attempt to paint the Rapture as something negative like God removed all those "old fashioned extremists" who were holding back civilization, or they were taken by aliens. Some of these left behind will realize what truly happened and receive Christ instead of the mark of the Beast, but many will not. Those will become part of this new ecumenical religion solidly founded upon idolatry, Mystery Babylon. Its ultimate form will be with the "Abomination of Desolation" when Antichrist demands direct worship of Satan and the "image" in the Temple that speaks — or die.

The Bible says this woman is "drunk with the blood of saints and the martyrs of Jesus". How does that apply to the apostate Christian church? The primary reference is not to Babylon but to the apostate Christian version of Mystery Babylon. Some examples include ...

The Inquisition — also called the "Holy Office" instituted by Pope Innocent III and perpetuated under Gregory IX required members to inform against heretics. Anyone suspected of being a heretic was subject to torture without knowing the accuser. The proceedings were secret. The inquisitor pronounced the sentence, and the victim was turned over to civil

authorities to be imprisoned or burned at the stake, and his property was confiscated. This inquisition claimed vast numbers of victims in Spain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands. Between 1540 and 1570 900,000 Protestants were put to death, not to mention the Jews who were required to become “believers” and be baptized—or die.

Rome strongly opposed the Reformation. Between 1513 and 1531 there were 25 different translations of the Bible, which had not been allowed by the Pope. Charles V in the Netherlands established the inquisition there and ordered all Lutheran writings destroyed, prohibited religious meetings where the Bible was read and decreed death by fire for the Anabaptists. You could not read the Bible for yourself; only the church could tell you what it said! By one sentence of the inquisition, over 100,000 were condemned to death and massacred. Some of those were slowly roasted to death. The Protestants united under William of Orange and revolted, eventually winning independence.

In France, the Huguenots demonstrated earnest piety and pure lives in stark contrast to the scandalous lives of the bishops and cardinals. The Pope ordered their leaders exterminated, and then he struck a medal to celebrate the occasion. Catherine de Medici, the mother of the king and an ardent Romanist, ordered the Huguenots massacred and, on Aug 24, 1572, 70,000 Huguenots were killed.

In Bohemia in 1600, of a population of 4,000,000, 80% were Protestant. When the Hapsburgs and Jesuits had done their work only 800,000 remained — and none were Protestants.

In Spain, the reformation never made much headway because the Inquisition was already there and very active. Arch-inquisitor Torquemada, a Dominican monk, in 18 years, burned 10,200 and condemned to perpetual imprisonment 97,000. Victims were usually burned alive in the town square, as part of a festival. From 1481-1808 there were 100,000 martyrs and 1.5 million were banished. Spain enriched with tons of New World gold entered the 16th century as the most powerful nation in the world. During the 16 and 17th centuries, Spain was busy extinguishing its literary life and put the nation almost completely outside European civilization. That was a product of divine judgment for their atrocities, and it brought them from the top of European society and culture to the very bottom.

And when John saw her he “marveled with great amazement” (Rev 17:6). He expressed his great amazement at what he had been shown and how it could happen. This false religious system will be what is left after the rapture of the church. What will drive this movement for unity among seemingly diverse and even conflicting theology? Fear? It will come together in the void left by the departure of the true Church and the Holy Spirit’s indwelling ministry. It will be manipulated by Satan for his purposes. It will be a major force in politics and even finance, supporting and even driving the building of the power base of the Antichrist.

Rev 17:4 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:

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She is a harlot, which is Bible-speak for idolatry — chasing after “other gods,” other than the one true God. She is dressed in the regal colors of purple and red and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She carries a golden cup full of her abominations. This all suggests the power and wealth and prestige she will enjoy, at least for a while, until Antichrist turns against her and establishes himself as a god.

Idolatry

A word on idolatry before we move forward. We tend to view idolatry in a very limited and physical sense. We tend to see it as worshiping physical idols that represent false gods. Any form of worshiping or praying to anyone or anything other than the One True God is idolatry, and there is no pretending it is anything but that. However, idolatry can be much more, and we can fail to understand that. Some examples of what these “other gods” can be ...

- Golf
- Fishing
- Deer Hunting — This one was my personal form of idolatry, and the Lord called me out on it.
- Alcohol or Drugs — Can become an idol in the worst way.

- Astrology and related forms of “spirituality”
- Prosperity — How often do we put making money above God? The prosperity gospel is deep into this. For them, God is merely an avenue to financial prosperity. They aren’t worshipping God; they are worshipping what they think He can give them.
- Pastor worship — Christians often fall into this one.
- Abortion — This is the supreme worship of the “God of self”.

Anytime you put something above your relationship with God, or you make something else a priority, you are practicing idolatry because you are worshipping some “other god”. Satan wants you confused and seeking anything other than a personal relationship with God. He wants you to do anything other than grow in grace and knowledge of God and His Plan.

The idols whisper, “Come, to me. I can give you what you want.”

Notice, the desire is for “something” that only the idol can deliver because of his “supreme or special power” or because of his close relationship with a “superior god” who does wield that supreme power, a relationship so intimate that the “superior god” cannot refuse the request.

Idolatry can and often does look much like the true faith, but an observant/aware believer can (or should be able to) see the deception. Satan takes the lie and wraps it in the truth, which is a perfect description of many “religions” today, and I am speaking of Christian “religions”. Christianity is not a religion; it is a relationship with God. Forget that, and you will be distracted into meaningless rituals and idolatry. In the Bible, there are only two rituals required of believers today. They are ritual baptism where the believer outwardly professes the inward reality of his faith in the saving work of Christ, and the other is the ritual of the Lord’s Table, where the believer “remembers” what Jesus Christ has done for him at the Cross. All others are the lies of men and Satan.

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.