

REVELATION: Lesson 149

Chapter 17:1-2 Whoredom, Harlotry, Adultery, and Fornication, According to the Bible

8 March 2021

Revelation 17 is dealing with the apostasy of the Jewish nation. Whenever the nation of Israel forsook God and began to join up with one of the nations of the world for safety or some other material gain, God referred to that break in their relationship as whoredom or harlotry. They stepped out on God and were unfaithful. God experiences great pain and grief when His bride is unfaithful.

Isaiah 1:21 Jerusalem was no longer **“the faithful city.”** She was **“an harlot.”**

Jeremiah 3:6 Backsliding Israel played the harlot when they committed idolatry in the high places. They forsook God and turned to false religion for material advantage.

Ezek 16:28-30 Israel was never satisfied. Whenever another nation offered them something they wanted, they forsook God, embraced that idolatrous nation like a whorish woman, and adopted their idols and religion.

Hosea 1-4 God commanded the Prophet Hosea to marry a **“wife of whoredoms”** (1:2) as an object lesson to Israel (the Jews require a sign, 1 Cor 1:22). He wanted the Jews to see how they were treating Him.

Israel played the harlot for bread and water, wool and flax, oil and drink (chapter 2:5). Therefore, God divorced Israel.

Then He married an adulteress (Chapter 3:1), which He purchased (3:2), and told her not to play the harlot like Israel did (3:3). Israel would be without a king, prince, sacrifice, image, ephod, or teraphim for many days (3:4). Afterward (2500 years later) Israel will return and seek the Lord their God in the latter days (3:5). (Tribulation time).

Isaiah 54:1-8 God will call Israel back into His bosom, instructing them to **“forget the shame of thy youth”** (when God divorced them for their harlotry) and **“the reproach of thy widowhood”** (when they had no relationship with God). Jehovah God will once again be the Husband of the nation of Israel.

Note: God divorced Israel and they went into captivity in Babylon for 70 years. Since that time they have never again participated in idolatry. When the Antichrist erects his image (Rev 13:14-15), those Jews will remember their harsh lessons and reject that idol.

Rev 17:1-2 **“The kings of the earth have committed fornication,”** not harlotry, not adultery. They have no marriage relationship with the Lord.

2 Cor 11:1-3 The Church has been **“espoused”** (bound) to the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan will attempt to lure us into unfaithfulness. There is no material gain involved when a Christian forsakes the Lord.

James 4:4 Unfaithful Christians are referred to as **“adulterers and adulteresses.”** Saved people today give in to temptations and turn from the Lord for nothing but momentary, fleeting pleasures.

2 Tim 3:1-5 Many sins are committed because men are **“lovers of their own selves”** and **“lovers of pleasures MORE than lovers of God.”** When we engage in activities that take us away from the things of God, we are adulterers and adulteresses. We’d rather play than pray. Bible reading and church attendance and witnessing are replaced by other (worldly) desires. God is left in the background.

We may still have **“a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof”** (vs 5). The power of God is denied when we allow our self-will to direct our lives.

Are we *doing* the things of God, while loving something else? That is adultery.