

THE FOUR WOMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE

THERE ARE FOUR women – two good, two evil— named in the book of the Revelation, each one with a typical significance:

Jezebel—A She-Devil (Ch. 2:20).

Jezebel (possibly “chaste” or “unhusbanded”) led the church of Thyatira into idolatry and immorality. She was guided by the familiar spirit of the wicked queen, Jezebel of the OT, the most malicious woman in Scripture (1 Kings 18:4-13).

Israel’s Jezebel was a self-styled prophetess and idolatrous woman, who persecuted the real prophets of God and the faithful in Israel. Like her counterpart, the church’s Jezebel of the Revelation, arrogantly assumed the title of prophetess and taught with self-imposed authority. She was a vile seductress of God’s servants. Two major sins are attributed to her.

1. She caused them to commit spiritual fornication— illicit intercourse with the world.
2. She promoted the consumption of foods offered to idols—the fellowship with demons.

That identical deceptive and arrogant spirit of Jezebel is conspicuously seen today in the Roman Catholic Church, which claims infallible authority in the matters of the Christian faith. But her erroneous and compromised teachings are leaven (Matt.13). Leaven is always a symbol of evil in Scripture. By her corrupt doctrines and practices she continues to confuse, defile and mislead an innumerable number of souls into hell’s damning fires. Tragically, all in God’s name. The amount of the “spiritual destruction” she has caused down through the centuries is preposterous.

She and all the churches like her, together with all their followers will be struck dead by God (v23), unless they repent.

The Woman Clothed with the Sun (Ch. 12).

This woman also represents a corporate body. She is the nation of Israel. She has given birth to the Man child, who is the Messiah, Jesus Christ the Lord. Verse 6 says, the woman will flee into the wilderness for the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation to take cover, because Satan in his wrath will want to finish off Israel for good, before Jesus returns.

This woman is not to be confused with Mary, the mother of Jesus, or the Church.

The Harlot, Babylon the Great (Ch. 17).

The third woman is designated: THE MOTHER OF ALL PROSTITUTES and the ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. Chapters 17 and 18 and parts of 19 are all about her.

Who is she? To those who have the Spirit of God, the spirit of understanding and wisdom, she is no longer a mystery.

The final, universal and apostate religious system that will have authority over all the religions of the earth will be the Roman Catholic Church. She is the Harlot, Babylon the Great. We beheld her in Jezebel, and with godly discernment we likewise behold her as the great harlot.

In Rev.17 and 18, the Babylonish Roman Catholic Church and harlot is found to be at the height of her pride and glory, hardened, unrepentant, and on the very edge of destruction. As a church she is none other than the lukewarm, apostate Laodicean church that the Lord will spew out of His mouth and vomit into the 7 year Tribulation Period. God will finally judge her and in one hour's time she will meet her eternal doom (Rev.18:10).

The harlot is sharply contrasted with the bride of Christ. The harlot is both a woman and a city. The bride of Christ is also both a woman and a city. The harlot is the Vatican City. The bride is the Heavenly Jerusalem. The harlot is the false bride. The chaste virgin is the true bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2). The harlot is the Gilded City— man's city— *covered* in gold (Rev.18:16). The chaste church, the bride of Christ, is the Golden City—God's city— *made* with gold (Rev.21:18).

The harlot is full of idolatries and corruptions. She makes the nations drunk with the wine of her fornication. She seduces the world with her charm, imperial clothes and splendor. She holds a golden cup in her hand, full of the abominations and filthiness of her fornication. Her skirts are despicably filthy.

She arrogantly claims to be the habitation of the Holy Spirit, whereas John tells us she has become the habitation of demons and every unclean spirit (Rev.18:2).

The aged apostle John was greatly astonished when he saw the final stage of Christendom on earth. The sight of the two beasts didn't astonish or terrify him, but the sight of the MOTHER OF ALL PROSTITUTES greatly amazed him. He was shocked!

Christ's bride is the church bought with His precious blood. The harlot is the Antichrist's bride, who is guilty of the blood of the prophets and of the saints and of all who have been killed earth (Rev. 18:24). The colors of her garments are scarlet and purple—the colors of SIN and BLOOD.

The Jews disliked Babylon. The true Church dislikes Rome.

The Bride of the Lamb (Ch. 19:7-8).

In chapter 19 of Revelation, remarked is the fact, that once the whore of the Antichrist is destroyed, the bride of Christ is displayed.

Revelation 19:7-8— *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

In this age of Grace, the church is the betrothed bride of Christ. At the marriage of the Lamb, she becomes His wedded wife (Ephesians 5:22, 23; 2 Corinthians 11:2).

The joy over such a blessed union will be mutual. It will be Christ's highest occasion of joy when His redeemed church, complete, is by His side forever. Then the completion of this union will also be the source of rejoicing and unending joy (*Bible Gateway Resources*).

In the closing verses of the Bible, we told of the present longing on the part of the bride for her bridegroom—the love of her life. The Spirit and the bride say, ***“Come!”*** (Rev.22:17). To the dearest object of His heart and eye, Jesus replies, ***“Yes, I am coming soon”*** (Rev.22:20).

Soli Deo Gloria