

The Two Women
The Bride & The Harlot
Bible Study Notes

*“And I will put enmity between thee and **the woman**, and between thy seed and **her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel... And the dragon was wroth with **the woman** and went to make war with **the remnant of her seed**, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”*

Genesis 3:15, Revelation 12:17

In Scripture God speaks to us literally, but He also speaks in signs, symbols and similitudes or likenesses. Says the prophet, “*I have also spoken by the prophets... and used similitudes...*”

Hosea 12:10

In another place the Holy Spirit says through the Apostle John that He, Jesus, “*sent and signified it*”

Revelation 1:1.

This word “*signify*” means to indicate something by signs and symbols. For e.g., as the visions of the Book of Revelation or the Book of Daniel, were revealed unto John and Daniel respectively, in signs and symbols.

Be that as it may, the unfortunate part of it all is that many self-professed Christians today in this final generation do not read or study the Word of God as we are admonished to, **2 Timothy 2:15**, and therefore are ignorant of these truths which God would have us to understand. On the other hand, many profess to study the Scriptures, yet they do not allow the Bible to be its own interpreter, rather, mankind in his fallen nature puts his own defiled interpretation on the particular text of study and confusion arises.

However, if we allow the Bible to be its own interpreter, through diligent study, many things would be made clear to us as God’s people and we would be able to go forward by the guidance of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the everlasting gospel unto all nations, “*a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

Let us therefore, with this understanding, search and see what the Word of God has to say on the Bride and the Harlot, two women that are revealed unto us with a deeper symbolic meaning at the end of time.

In Scripture, as mentioned earlier, God speaks to us using various signs and many times in the Bible a single text will have a literal meaning but also a deeper symbolic meaning.

Take **Matthew 4:4** for example. *"Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."*

Are we to literally eat God's word that comes out of His mouth? Of course not, literal words cannot be literally eaten. However, the word of God is here compared to literal bread, an example of *"a similitude or a likeness"* as spoken of by Hosea in our earlier mentioned verse.

As man is to be nourished daily by bread or food, for energy and sustenance to get through the day, so are we to be nourished spiritually by God's Word day by day.

As we strengthen our muscles by partaking of literal food, so are we to strengthen the spiritual muscle, *the mind*, by storing God's Word in our hearts.

Also compare this with **Ezekiel 3:1-4**.

So, who or what then are these two women? Who is this bride and who is this harlot?

To understand this, we must therefore look at a few texts and understand some basic principles.

A WOMAN- THE CHURCH

"I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman." **Jeremiah 6:2**

According to Jeremiah, Zion is compared to a woman but who is Zion?

"...say unto Zion, Thou art my people." **Isaiah 51:16**

Isaiah tells us that Zion, symbolically represents God's people; all those who have entered into a covenant relationship with Him. In short, a woman represents the Church.

In **Genesis 3:15**, as God made known the promise of the Redeemer to Adam and Eve, and the punishment to befall the devil, He said *"I will put enmity between thee and **the woman**, and between thy seed and **her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."*

Yes, in the context here, the woman represented Eve, however, in the deeper sense, the woman here refers to God's Church of which the *"seed"*, Jesus Christ, would come through.

For this woman, as we will see eventually, has two stages, the Jewish nation of Israel, in the days of the Old Testament and then the Christian Church after the Day of Pentecost.

Jesus literally descended from Eve, as did all of us, but He also came through the lineage of the Jews; He was an Israelite.

Take a look at **Revelation 12** for further confirmation.

*"and the dragon stood before **the woman**, which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."* **Revelation 12:3-4**

We see many symbols here given and these symbols can only be understood by comparing Scripture with Scripture and allowing the Bible to be its own interpreter.

Here we see the dragon, or satan, **Revelation 12:9**, standing before the woman who was pregnant and travailing in birth, that he may destroy the Child as soon as He was born. However, he was unsuccessful, because the Child was caught up to the Father and His Throne.

In **Matthew 2**, we notice that satan tried to destroy Jesus as soon as He was born by using Herod "*the great*" to order the decree that all baby boys under the age of two should be killed, **verse 16**. However, he was not successful, and 33 years later, Christ willingly offered up His life for you and I, as the Lamb of God without blemish and without spot, **John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-19**, that we may have the opportunity in His name to have everlasting life, **John 3:16**.

This woman is not Mary as some falsely claim, for **verses 6,14,16** make this clear.

Notice the description given of this woman in **Revelation 12:1**.

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars."

Surely, we are not talking of a literal woman here, but of a woman in the symbolic sense, for John sees the woman in Heaven: God's Church, Zion, "*the comely and delicate woman*". She was the Church in its OT stage, i.e., *The nation of Israel*.

THE WOMAN- THE BRIDE

This woman throughout Scripture has always had two stages, both in OT and NT.

When she was walking according to the statutes of God, being faithful to Him and keeping His Commandments, she was called His Bride, "*clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.*" **Revelation 12:1**.

She is described throughout the Scriptures as being married unto God.

See below a few Scripture references confirming this point, both OT & NT.

"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you... Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD." **Jeremiah 3:14,20**

*"For thy **Maker** is thine husband; the **LORD** of hosts is his name and thy **Redeemer** the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called."* **Isaiah 54:5**

"...as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." **Isaiah 62:5**

*"...and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord **GOD**, and thou becamest mine."* **Ezekiel 16:8**

*"And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the **LORD**."* **Hosea 2:19-20**

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish... This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."
Ephesians 5:25-27,32

Here it is quite clear that those who enter into a covenant relationship with God through His Son Jesus, are called His Bride.

The Church is the bride of Christ, she is *"the daughter of Zion"*, she is *"a comely and delicate woman"*, she is *"clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars"* and at the last day when Christ shall return the second time, she shall *"be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."*

THE WOMAN- THE HARLOT

However, we also notice that the woman has another stage. When the church is in apostasy, when she is turned to her own way, worshipping false gods, having departed from the Law of God and uniting with the nations of the world of which she is called to come out of and be separate, she is deemed a harlot.

God has commanded His bride since the OT times to depart from the nations around her and to walk not in their customs but to walk in His way and His statutes.

"Now the Lord said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee." **Genesis 12:1**

Abraham dwelt in the land of Mesopotamia, primarily in the city of Ur located in ancient Babylonia, one of the most pagan nations of the ancient world. False worship, idolatry, child sacrificing, and the like were a common practice there and God in His mercy called out Abram, *later Abraham*, from that wicked place lest Abram be turned to the sins of the land and his soul be lost. In His mercy and love for His people, God says the same to us today, for He *"changeth not"*, **Malachi 3:6**.

*"Babylon the great is fallen is fallen and is become the habitation of devils and the hold of every foul spirit and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird... Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues. **Revelation 18:1,5***

Notice the Word of God to the nation of Israel:

"After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances. Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD."

Leviticus 18:3-5

*"And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them." **Leviticus 20:23***

However, despite these warnings, time and time again, the OT Church departed from the worship of the One true God and were turned unto idols and widespread apostasy and says the Apostle Paul, *"now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."* **1 Corinthians 10:11**

Therefore, if all these things written about the OT Church were written for our learning, we should then devote more time to the reading and study of the Old Testament for it was written as an example to the New Testament Church.

As we heed this admonition, we will notice that because of Israel's apostasy and widespread idolatry, God compared her to a harlot, committing whoredoms, harlotries and fornications.

Let us compare a few Scriptures to confirm this point.

*"But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was. And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckedst thy high places with diverse colours, and playedst the harlot thereupon: the like things shall not come, neither shall it be so." **Ezekiel 16:15-16***

*"Moreover, thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter." **Ezekiel 16:20***

*"Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger." **Ezekiel 16:26***

*"How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman... as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!" **Ezekiel 16:30,32***

*"They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD." **Jeremiah 3:1***

*"And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery, I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not but went and played the harlot also. And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks." **Jeremiah 3:8,9***

*"Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine." **Hosea 3:1***

The Holy Spirit is showing us the same thing throughout the Scriptures as we compare them and that is, a backslidden Church, who has departed from God to the worship of false gods and other abominations and apostasies is seen in His eyes as a harlot.

The complete opposite to the daughter of Zion, who is a beautiful and comely woman, faithful unto her Husband, the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE WOMAN- THE ULTIMATUM

This understanding is pivotal in understanding end time Bible prophecy because in the Book of Revelation, which was written for our time, *"upon whom the ends of the world have come"*, we see two women.

We see one woman, **Revelation 12**, *"clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars."* She is the Bride of Christ, the faithful believers of God, throughout all the world who are faithful to Him irrespective of the consequences and the persecution.

We also see another woman, **Revelation 17**, *"arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."*

She is the apostate Church, the Church that has turned from the worship of the one true God and turned to idolatry and a multitude of abominations. She is comprised of all those who reject the gospel of Christ, for there shall only be two classes of people at the Second Coming of Christ, *the sheep and the goats*, **Matthew 25: 31-46**.

The woman of **Revelation 12** will be comprised of a remnant in these last days. A minority rather than a majority will stand fast upon the truth of God's Word and because of this, because satan is not able to break her and cause her to deny the one true God and the keeping of all of His commandments, he shall be wroth with the woman and seek to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, **verse 17**.

He shall use the woman, *harlot*, of **Revelation 17**, in conjunction with the '*kings of the earth*', **verse 2,12-14**, to persecute the Bride of Christ. For a time, it will appear as if the harlot succeeds, but God shows us the end from the beginning. The faithful saints shall be victorious and shall meet Christ in the air at His glorious Second Coming, whereas the wicked shall be destroyed by the brightness of His Coming.

Friends, we are heading for perilous times. This world is degrading by the minute. Satan is gaining more and more control over the minds of the inhabitants of this earth, and it seems like there are more supporters on the side of the harlot than they are siding with the Bride. We all have a choice to make, there is no middle ground, no neutral area. Satan would want you to believe that there is, but based on Scripture, he who is not for Christ is against Him.

Therefore, choose ye today whom ye will serve.

