

The Bride of Christ & the Harlot Church

Genesis 4:4 -8 “Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

5. but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?

7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.”

Here we see two religions contrasted much as the Bride & the Harlot are contrasted in Revelation.

1. Abel – by grace through faith he offered his sacrifice
Cain – offered to God the works of his hands, produce from the earth that had been cursed by God (Gen 3:17 “And unto Adam he said, Because you have hearkened unto the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you, saying, you shall not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow you shall eat of it all the days of thy life;”)
2. Abel had divine revelation, Cain did not.
Hebrews 11:4 “ By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet spoke.”

3. Abel offered a propitiation for the curse put upon the earth. Cain offered the produce from the cursed land to God.
4. Abel knew the need for a substitutionary blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin. Cain offered to God an unbloody sacrifice refusing divine revelation.
5. Abel raised sheep of which he was prohibited from eating their meat. He was a shepherd of sheep whose only purpose would be that of providing for Abel a blood sacrifice for sin and wool for clothing. Cain could have shared his produce with his brother Abel, who could have offered a sheep to God, one sheep for each brother.
6. **Abel's religion of grace through faith produced a martyr** and is producing the Bride of Christ. **Cain's religion produced a murderer and a persecutor.**
Cain's religion of works with no grace is producing the harlot church. The Bride has her roots in heaven attached to the Vine.

1st Example: Cain also knew God's acceptable sacrifice but offered the work of his hands, produce grown from the cursed earth. God will not accept unauthorized sacrifices. Cain's religion is salvation for all – showing God's love and ignoring the righteousness and holiness of God. This religion shows Jesus as man, does not confess that Jesus has a divine nature. Cain's religion is all heaven, no hell. All works, no grace and no faith. Cain's religion offers to God what is not authorized by God nor is it wanted by God.

Regarding our sacrifice of works: Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; (ST. 0899 beged -bawged ...” word used to describe used menstrual rags)

2nd Example Leviticus 10:1-2 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and **offered strange fire before the**

LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.”

3rd Example Saul offered an animal sacrifice in spite of the fact that God only wanted this offering from Levitical priests, not from the King.

1Samuel 15:20 “And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

"But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD?

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king."

A. The true Bride of Christ has her roots in heaven. It may be pictured as a ladder descending from heaven to earth to reach man at God's initiative.

Jacob's vision "Genesis 28:12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.")

Jesus, who began in heaven and was sent by the Father shows that He is "Jacob's ladder" – **John 1:51 "And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."**

The false ladders of the world's religions begin on earth with men's works and fall short of heaven just as the Tower of Babel failed.

Rev 6:2-8

Rev 6:8 “And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him.”

Rev 1:18 “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

Dan 8:25 “And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.”

Dan 9:27 “Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,...”

ISA 28:18 “Your covenant with death will be annulled, And your agreement with hell will not stand;”

The Harlot of Revelation 17

REVELATION 17:4-5 “And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, 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.”
(NO BLUE IN HER ARRAY)**

Let's look at the Bride of Christ:

Rev 19:7-8 “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath 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.”

Again in Isaiah 61:10

“ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

Ephesians 5:26 speaks to us about Jesus cleansing His Bride with the washing of the water of the word.

1John 5:6-8 “This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

9 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

We are redeemed by the Blood of Jesus. We are washed from the filth of the world by the washing of water of the Word.

**The Bride is loved by her future spouse
Jesus loves His betrothed Bride (Eph 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it.”)**

In the times of Jesus’ earthly ministry and before, a betrothal happened when a man was engaged to a woman. During the betrothal period the woman was set apart for her husband only. If during the year of betrothal, she was found to be unfaithful, the future husband could divorce her and publicly declare she was in fornication.

As an example, Joseph almost put Mary away when he learned she was pregnant. Since he was an honorable man he intended to quietly divorce her.

Matt 1:19-20 “Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”

Therefore, if Jesus is not virgin- born, then He was an illegitimate child which the Scripture calls a “bastard”. Those church people today who say on the one hand that Jesus was not virgin-born are unwilling to try to explain or account for the consequences of their unbelief. People are not given a third choice. Jesus is either born of a virgin prophetically fulfilling Isa 7:14 or he was a “bastard” who would not even be allowed to enter the congregation of Israel.

Deuteronomy 23:2 “A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD.”

I will not apologize for the Word of God nor will I criticize it. I am not authorized to do that, and neither are you. The apostles stated that they were to Acts 6:4 "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to *the ministry (or as servants) of the word.*"

The Harlot Church

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 5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

The Harlot church was at one time part of the true church:

1John 2:19 “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”

Acts 20:27-31 “For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the church of God which He has purchased with His own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departure *grievous wolves shall enter in among you,* not sparing the flock.

30 *Also men shall arise from your own selves,* speaking perverse things in order to draw disciples away after them.

31 Therefore watch and remember that for the time of three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

The beast hates the harlot church & destroys her

Believers are warned to beware:

These false teachers will be called “Christian” ministers.

Corruption of the Bride

2COR 11:3-4 “But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if *he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached,* or if you receive a *different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel* which you have not accepted----you may well put up with it!”

Regarding another Gospel, Paul warns the Galatians:

Galatians 1:8-9 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Today a social gospel is being preached by many churches who have agreed to come into a false sheepfold claiming unity at any cost with non Christian religions including New Age churches, Voodun, and Wiccan Witchcraft.

This gospel denies

1. the divinity of Jesus,
2. the Resurrection and
3. virgin birth of Jesus and
4. the need for a vicarious blood atonement for our sins.
5. It teaches the love of God and ignores the righteousness of God.
6. It teaches that all will be saved and ignores God’s judgment.
7. It offers to God the works of their hands, preaching & teaching to improve the social environments in which people live.

Teaching that there must be religious unity at all costs, refusing to confess that Jesus is the only way, truth and the life and the only way to eternal life.

That is not the Jesus of the true Gospel of grace that Paul preached.

Jesus said **“Luke 12:51 "Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.”**

1TIM 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons;

2COR 11:13 “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. **15** Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

Peter in warning Christians tells us **1Peter 5:8** “**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**” Peter spoke these warnings to the Christians, not to unbelievers.

Some of us want to believe that Jesus will come and rapture us out of persecution. Not so. **John 13:16** **Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.**” Jesus was persecuted by religious leaders and put to death as were most of the Apostles.

Again Jesus says **John 15:20** “**Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.**”

Today in areas of the world there are Christians being martyred for Jesus Christ. Their voices are captured on the internet for us by site such as “Voice of the Martyrs” and “Cry from the Lions Den”.

Suffering is part of the Christian life:

1 Peter 2:19 “**For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.**”

1Peter 4:12-13 “**Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.**”

1Peter 4:17 “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

Regarding compromise with this “social gospel” and its perception of the person of Jesus:

The Israelites of Elijah’s day did not stop worshipping Jehovah, they simply commingled it with the worship of Baal. Elijah speaks to the Jewish people of his day who were gathered for the great showdown at Mt. Carmel:

1Kings 18:21 “And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you halt between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” *But the people answered him not a word.*”

To Demonstrate Man’s Propensity to Idol Worship:

Example: the BRAZEN SERPENT

NUMBERS 21:9 “And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.”

Hezekiah removed these idols from Israel **2Kings 18:4-5**
“He removed the high places, and broke the images, and cut down the groves, and broke in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it **Nehushtan (the bronze thing)** He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor [any] that were before him.”

An example of replacing Jesus in a subtle way is found
on the cornerstone of the UN building quotes only the following:

“they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

There is no reference to Messiah and the implication there is that the UN, not Jesus, will achieve this global peace

The Scripture in context is a direct reference to the Messiah.
Isaiah 2:4 *4 **And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people:*** and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Hear what our Father’s position is on gray, shadowy areas:
[James 1:17](#) “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”(NIV)

Hear what our Lord Jesus says about the middle-of-the-road that He prefers to call “lukewarm”:

[Rev 3:15-16](#) “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot.

So then because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue (ST. 1692 Greek: emeo meaning vomit) you out of my mouth”.

A minority of people will be saved. If you move with the crowd, you will go to hell!

Matthew 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it."

Commingling Jesus with other gods is prohibited:

John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by me."

2COR 6:14-18 "14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

"I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

In summary,

A. we do have a promise from the Lord in Rev 3:10 made to the missionary Church of Philadelphia. **"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."** However we are not promised to be raptured out of persecution.

B. there are two movements alive today in professing Christianity: one is spreading the Gospel and being witnesses for Jesus in submission to Him. Obedience to her betrothed.

C. The other movement, the Harlot, seeks to blend Christianity with the pagan religions of the world. The Harlot will not preach Jesus Christ crucified. The Harlot will have nothing to do with salvation in the Blood of Jesus, and she will in fact deny that such a sacrifice is necessary. The offering that the Harlot church makes to God will be rejected by Almighty God as was Cain's offering and the strange fire offered by Nadab and Abihu. The Harlot will very soon begin persecuting the Bride of Christ. In this coming persecution, we will be tested in our faith.

Will we stand firm for Jesus, and Him alone, or will we compromise with this evil worldly system?

D. Only the Bride, not the Harlot, will in the power of the Holy Spirit say the words of Rev 22: 17 **“And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”**