

WATCH OUT FOR THE APOSTATE WOMAN

The BRIDE (the faithful Wife) is intimate only with her HUSBAND (Jesus Christ)

The HARLOT (false church system) is intimate with MANY (Unfaithful to Jesus Christ)

APOSTASY is personified as the Strange Woman, the Harlot. This Adulterer is a “spiritual influence”, which attempts to entice, beguile and seduce; Num. 25:1-3; 2 Chron. 18:18-22; Proverbs 7; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:13; Rev. 2:20; 17:1-18

A. The Apostate Woman Uses Persuasion to draw “strong men” (chosen ones), to become “intimate” with her. Proverbs, chapter 7, is written to “sons”.

1. Joseph - refused the advances of the harlot (Potiphar’s wife); Genesis 39:7-21.

2. King Solomon – was caught in this snare; he loved many foreign women who turned his heart away after their gods; 1 Kings 11:1-6

3. Samson - succumbed to the seduction of Delilah; Judges 16:4-19; Prov. 7:26

B. The Apostate Woman Seduces ignorant, foolish, religious and careless “sons”; Numbers 31:15-16; Proverbs 2:16-19; 6:32; 7:7; 1 Kings 11:1-6; Rev. 2:14-16.

C. The Apostate Woman Appears To Be “Respectable” But She Is A Counterfeit:

1. She has “ministers of light” who have revelation, Jeremiah 23:16, who perform lying signs and wonders; Nahum 3:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:9; 2 Corinthians 11:12-15.

2. She has “peace offerings” with which she pays her “vows”: “I will give (send) you a gift, if you give me your money”; Prov. 7:14; she uses bribes; Is. 1:21-23; Amos 5:12

3. She utilizes “flattery” and “smooth speech”; Prov. 2:16; 7:5, 21; 1 Thess. 2:5

a. “The lips of a strange woman drop as a honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil”; Prov. 5:3. She has “oil” (humanistic imitations) and “honey” (a false sweetness); she tells them what they want to hear; 2 Timothy 4:3-4

b. She has enticing (convincing) arguments, “fair speech”; Rom. 16:18

4. She lures the foolish “son” into her “bed”; Prov. 7:16

a. She gives a false sense of peace to those who “recline” with her; Jer. 6:14; Jud. 16:19

b. She has coverings of tapestry, fine linen “of Egypt” (a false righteousness), “woven and stitched” with the “intermingling” of a mixture; Proverbs 7:16 Isaiah 19:9

5. She has her own “perfume”; Proverbs 7:17, a false anointing (of flesh), a counterfeit “compound”; Exodus 30:32; strange fire; Leviticus 10:1

6. Her house is the way to hell; Proverbs 2:18; 7:8, 27

a. Her feet do not stay in her house. She “solicits” in the markets, in the “broad streets” at every corner, and “travels land and sea” to gain a convert; Prov. 7:11-12; Matt. 23:15

b. The “goodman” (the true husband, Jesus) is not there; Prov. 7:19

7. She has “carved works”; Proverbs 7:16 (Hebrew word means “to hew”); she cuts and builds with her own “tool”, a “mark” of the beast; Exodus 20:25; 32:4

a. She “daubs the walls” with “untempered mortar” (Hebrew word: slime, to smear; frivolity, foolish things, unseasoned) whitewash; Ezekiel 8:8-10; 13:10

b. Like Nimrod, she builds her own city / kingdom; Gen. 10:10; 11:4; Rev. 17:1-2, 18

8. She works in the darkness, has underlying motives: a subtle (sly) heart; Prov. 7:9-10

a. She appeals to the flesh, slays “strong men”; she offers the right kind of “bait”, “seizes her prey” and leads them into intimacy; Proverbs 7:13, 15, 18, 21, 26; Gal. 5:19

9. She has her own “paths”: a tolerance of “many ways” lead to her house; she rejects the one straight and narrow path that leads to life; Prov. 7:25; Matt. 7:13-14; Luke 13:24
10. She has her own apparel and “puts on” her own garment (righteousness); Isaiah 4:1. She offers her own “coverings”: titles, positions, recognition, prestige; Prov. 7:10

D. Steps That Lead To Apostasy:

1. A “professing” believer has a conversion to the faith and may bear fruit initially, but fails to take the truths, warnings and teachings from God’s Word seriously; 2 Pet. 2:20-22
2. Temporal pursuits take precedence over the things of God’s Kingdom; Col. 3:1-2
3. He ceases drawing near to God, being influenced by the spirit of this age, cares of life.
4. He becomes increasingly tolerant of wrong practices and sin in himself and others.
5. Other voices, leaders or spiritual “experiences” have replaced his “first love”; Rev. 2:4
6. His heart becomes hardened through a deliberate, continual, willful turning from God, as he ignores the repeated voice, warnings and rebuke of the Holy Spirit.
7. The Holy Spirit is grieved and quenched because His “temple” has become violated.
8. If there is no repentance within an appointed period of time, the Holy Spirit eventually departs from the former believer: this is the principle of “Ichabod”; Exodus 32:32-33; 1 Samuel 4:11, 21-22; John 15:6; 1 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 10:26-29; Revelation 3:5.

E. Signs Of Apostasy:

1. It accommodates spiritual decay, immorality, worldliness and idolatry.
2. The Great Commission is replaced by a fixation on social injustice and political reform.
3. It sets sound doctrine aside and advocates “tolerance” and unity of an inter-faith agenda.
4. It accuses those who love the truth, who point out doctrinal error, heresy, deception (such as dominion theology, mysticism) as being legalistic, unloving, judgmental; 2 Tim. 3:16
5. It buys and sells gifts; loves mammon and self-sufficiency; Matt. 6:24; 21:12-13
6. It offers immediate gratification, a “short cut”, another “way”: “no waiting, no price to pay, no cross, no pain, no prison, no restraint”; 2 Corinthians 11:4
7. It entertains / pacifies the people; it will not confront sin, not wanting to offend anyone.
8. It incorporates false doctrine and unbiblical practices; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; 2 Tim. 4:3-4

F. How To Guard Against Apostasy:

1. We must test all things and be a good “Berean”; Acts 17:11. Scripture tells us in 2 Corinthians 11:4 that there is “another Jesus, another spirit and another gospel”.
2. Be careful about who or what you listen to. God’s true messengers will preach the “full counsel of God”; Acts 20:27. The enemy will “push and pressure” us through the use of deceit and domination; the Spirit of God will “lead and guide” us into all truth.
3. Guard your relationship (in communion) with the Lord; don’t allow your fellowship with Him to be broken. Don’t allow anyone or anything to come before Him.
4. God’s Word reveals His will: His general will for all of us and also His specific will for us as individuals. Ask Him to illuminate the Word of God, to give you understanding.
5. Seek the Lord daily in prayer; come before Him with a sincere, transparent, repentant heart. Ask Him to reveal anything in your life that is displeasing to Him, including any “blind spots” that you may have. Ask Him to give you “eyes to see” and “ears to hear”.

Terri Hill

