

# The Prostitute



West Flemish Apocalypse

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## A. Prostitute's Place in the Structure

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# Progression of 7 Cycles

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## ◆ Commission

1. 7 seals: scouts

## ◆ Prosecution of war

2. 7 trumpets: effects on earth

3. 7 symbolic accounts: characters

4. 7 bowls: more effects on earth

## ◆ Elimination of evil

5. 7 messages about Babylon: seductress

6. white horse: power source

7. white throne: all evil

culmination

# 7 Messages about Prostitute

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**Introduction: the Prostitute appears 17:1-6**

- 1. War with the Prostitute 17:7-18**
- 2. Angelic announcement of fall 18:1-3**
- 3. Warning to separate from her 18:4-8**
- 4. Lament of the kings 18:9-10**
- 5. Lament of the merchants 18:11-17a**
- 6. Lament of sailors 18:17b-20**
- 7. Final angelic message of doom 18:21-24**

**Contrast: The pure Bride 19:1-10**

# Introduction: Revelation 17:1-2

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Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk."

# Revelation 17:3-4

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And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

# Revelation 17:5-6

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And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.



## B. The Meaning of the Prostitute

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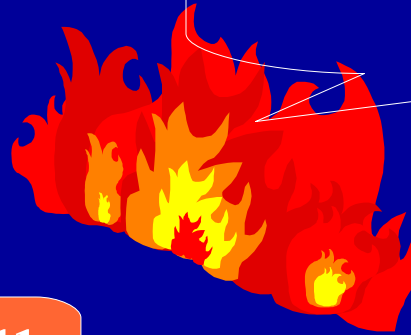
# Who Counterfeits Bride?

Original	Function	Counterfeit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ The Father</li><li>◆ Christ the Son</li><li>◆ Spirit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>originates</li><li>executes</li><li>witnesses</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Dragon</li><li>◆ Beast</li><li>◆ False Prophet</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Bride</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>gather, worship</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Prostitute</li></ul>

# Two Opponents

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Who will defeat God's people  
for me?



I will



I will



# Strategy of Opposition

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How?



Persecution!



Seduction with  
money and sex!



# Response to Opposition

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## Calling of the church:

Light-bearing  
Witness

Endurance  
(13:10)

Virgin  
purity

Separation  
(18:4)

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## Opposition:

Persecuting power  
of the Beast

Seductive luxury  
of the Prostitute

# Four Views of Prostitute

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- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Roman Empire     | ◆ Jezebel (2:20-23)           |
| 2. Final Crisis     | ◆ 2 Thess. 2:10-11            |
| 3. Church History   | ◆ Compromise with worldliness |
| 4. Repeated Pattern | ◆ Dan. 7 spans this age       |



# Revelation 2:20-21

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But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

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The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

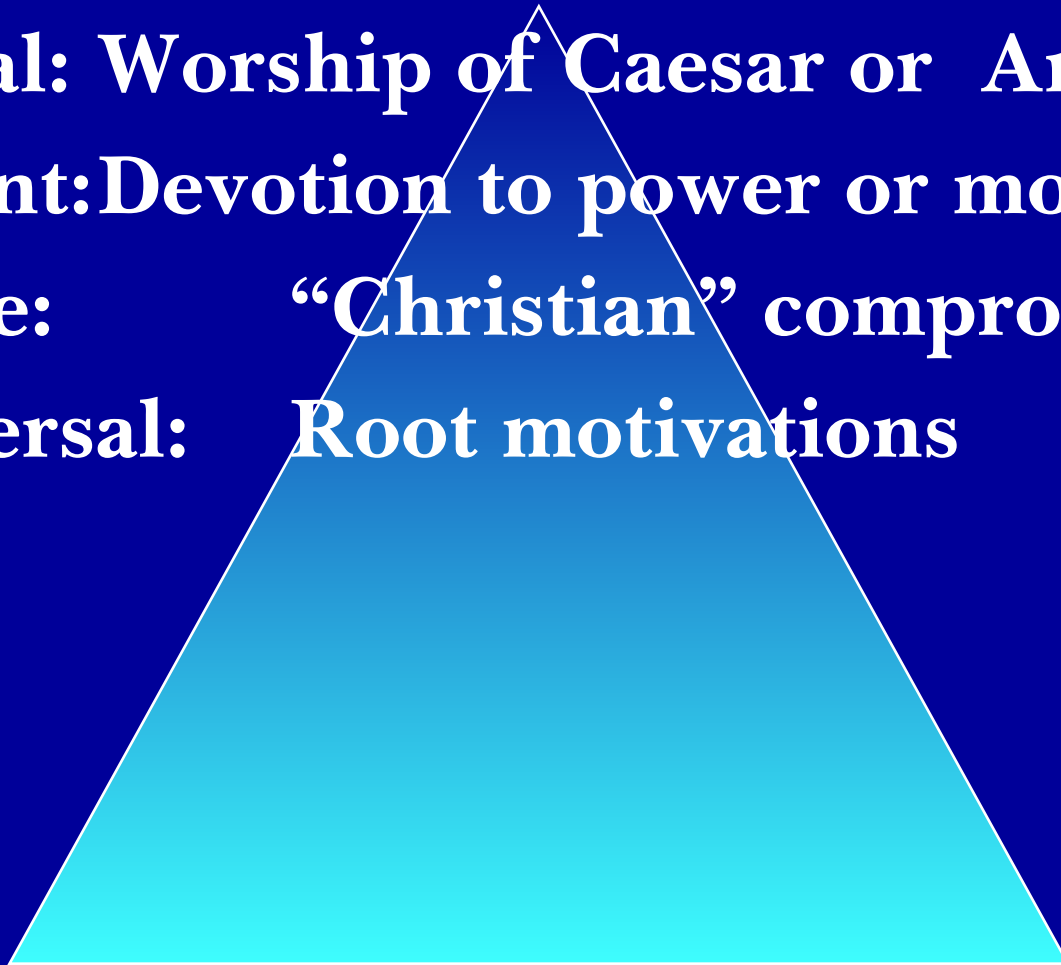
## C. Levels of Application

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# Forms of Idolatry

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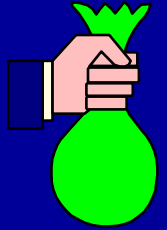
- ◆ **Literal:** Worship of Caesar or Artemis
- ◆ **Blatant:** Devotion to power or money
- ◆ **Subtle:** “Christian” compromises
- ◆ **Universal:** Root motivations



# The Prostitute in the USA

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- ◆ Money; accumulation; having more than the neighbor (prestige)
- ◆ Sexual pleasure: happiness comes from having admiring sexual partners
- ◆ Expanding leisure



# Worshipping Prostitute in USA

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◆ Blatant

Money, sex

◆ Subtle

Fantasizing

being rich

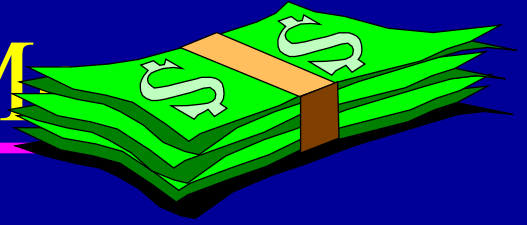
sexual flirtation

It's tempting





# Worshipping Prostitute in M



- ◆ After a tithe, greed. It's MINE.
- ◆ Or monk's poverty.
- ◆ Or self-righteous simple life-style.
- ◆ Or Marxism (let experts do it for me).

# Worshipping Prostitute in Sex



- ◆ Promiscuity: “if it feels good, do it.”
- ◆ Selfishness within the legal boundaries
- ◆ Monk’s celibacy
- ◆ Despising the body
- ◆ Feminism (let experts do it for me).

# Universal Worship of Prostitute

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( **Beast** )

- ◆ **Fear**
- ◆ **Passive,  
retreating**
- ◆ **Avoid pain**
- ◆ **At any cost**
- ◆ **For ME**

**Prostitute**

- ◆ **Lustful desire**
- ◆ **Active, advancing**
- ◆ **Get pleasure**
- ◆ **At any cost**
- ◆ **For ME**

# Salvation from False Worship

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- ◆ Worship Satan
- ◆ Deceptive redemptions
- ◆ Fear false power
- ◆ Lust for money
- ◆ Lust for sex

False

- ◆ Worship God (4)
- ◆ True redemption in the Lamb (5)
- ◆ God's Throne (22:1; 4:2)
- ◆ God's Wealth (21:21; 4:3)
- ◆ God's Marriage (19:7; 21:9)

replaced by

True