

Identifying the Characters

(An angel of God assists John in identifying the characters in the revelation.)

The Harlot (Apostate Jerusalem)

Identifying Characteristics	Possible Meaning
<p>Sits on many waters</p> <p>With whom kings commit fornication & by whom the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk</p> <p>Carried by scarlet beast</p> <p>Arrayed in purple, adorned with gold, precious stones, pearls, a golden cup full of abominations & filthiness of her fornication</p> <p>Babylon the great, mother of harlots</p> <p>Drunk with the blood of the saints & the martyrs of Jesus</p> <p>Hated by the beast and burnt with fire fulfilling the word of God</p>	<p>Apostate Israel exercised influence all over the empire through the dispersed Jews who lived among the nations (See book of Acts).</p> <p>Apostate Israel joined “the kings of the earth” against the Lord and His Christ (Ac. 4:25-28).</p> <p>All Jewish persecuting power against Christians was exerted through the Roman government (Cf. Mt. 27:1-2)</p> <p>Jerusalem sought the wealth and glory of earthly kingdoms rather than the spiritual glory of the Messiah’s kingdom (Jn. 11:48).</p> <p>As the wife of the Lord, apostate Israel was the ultimate harlot, who traded her unique position with God to hold earthly power (Cf. Is. 1:21).</p> <p>Jesus charged Jerusalem with being guilty of all righteous blood shed on the earth (Mt. 23:29-39).</p> <p>The “beast” (Nero and his “resurrected” replacement Vespasian) used the armies of the nations to destroy Jerusalem (Lk. 21:20-24) fulfilling the prophecies of Daniel and the Lord.</p>