

Bible Study

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Spiritual Whoredom in both Old and New Testaments

By C M White
Version 1.1 2020

**“My people inquire of a piece of wood,
and their walking staff gives them oracles.
For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray,
and they have left their God to play the whore.”
(Hosea 4:12)**

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Our purpose and desire are to foster Biblical, historical and related studies that strengthen the Church of God’s message & mission and provides further support to its traditional doctrinal positions.

Note: *English Standard Version* (ESV) used throughout unless otherwise indicated.

Associated studies

- *A Chronological Overview of the Changes (1986-96)* by C M White
- *A Short Note on II Thess 2:6-7 and being “out of the way”* by C M White
- *Amazing Temple Symbolism found in Revelation Chapter 3!* by C M White
- *The Apostasy of the First Century and its End-Time Parallel* by C M White
- *The ‘Daughter of Zion’ and ‘My People’ in Prophecy* by C M White

“lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice.

(Ex 34:15)

“Your evil will chastise you, and **your apostasy will reprove you**. Know and see that **it is evil and bitter for you to forsake the LORD** your God; the fear of me is not in you, declares the Lord GOD of hosts.

“For long ago I broke your yoke and burst your bonds; but you said, ‘I will not serve.’

Yes, on every high hill and under every green tree **you bowed down like a whore**.

Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine?” (Jer 2:19-21)

“I am the Lord: that is my name: and **my glory will I not give to another**, neither my praise to graven images.” (Is 42:8)

“But I have this against you, that **you have abandoned the love you had at first**.

Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.” (Rev 2:4-5)

Introduction

From time-to-time in the old Worldwide Church of God, there were statements made in sermons about apostasy in the Old Testament and also in the Early Church, though nothing much in detail to my knowledge, leaving the study and detail to oneself. Very little was written about it to solidify and prove the doctrine.

Whoredom is a term used throughout Scripture and viewed in the most negative light with very serious consequences. After all, whoredom is to do with all sexual unfaithfulness or sins by a marriage partner, not only prostitution or harlotry as we shall discover.

This and other similar terms are used on both Testaments as examples and a warning to the Church of God as a whole and to Christians as individuals.

Do we play the whore?

Do we join ourselves with the gods of this world? Do we seek after spiritual lovers – the spiritual nations of this world (ie false churches)?

Are we unfaithful toward our generous and gracious God?

In this study we will be exploring this very important concept and what we can do to watch out for slippage into spiritual whoredom.

Ancient Israel's Unfaithfulness

Ancient Israel was considered married to God (Ex 19:1-8; 24:7-8 – the marriage ceremony; 20:1-17 – the marriage covenant). Note also Ezek 16:8; Jer 31:32.

Yet, despite all her husband did for her, she played around with foreign gods and committed adultery. This unfaithfulness is also known as spiritual whoredom, which led to divorce:

“They despised his statutes and his covenant that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the LORD had commanded them that they should not do like them.

And **they abandoned all the commandments of the LORD their God**, and made for themselves metal images of two calves; and they made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal.

And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger. Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and **removed them out of his sight**.

None was left but the tribe of Judah only.” (IIKings 17:15-18)

“And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger.

They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth.

Yet they did not listen to their judges, **for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them.** They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so.” (Judges 2:12-13, 17. Cf 8:27, 33; Lev 20:5-6; Num 15:39; 25:2; 14:33; Deut 31:16; IChron 5:5; IIChron 21:13; Ps 73:27; 106:39)

“While Israel lived in Shittim, **the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab.**

These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.

So Israel yoked [joined] himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.” (Num 25:1-3. Cp Ps 106:28-29, 34-43)

This throws light on Paul’s statement (IICor 6:14-16) that Christians must not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. That is to not adopt their non-Biblical practices, traditions and doctrines (eg trinity, immortal soul, Christmas, Easter, Sunday, New Year’s, horoscopes, Valentine’s Day, wearing heart symbols, having figurines in the home such as Middle Eastern gods, supposed ‘Christian’ saints and buddahs et al).

“My people inquire of a piece of wood,
and their walking staff gives them oracles.

**For a spirit of whoredom has led them astray,
and they have left their God to play the whore.”** (Hos 4:12)

From the above (which represents only a small number of pertinent Scriptures on the subject – many more are found in **Appendix: Scriptures on Whoredom**) we can see how whoredom is used in a spiritual way – the typology is clear: unfaithfulness to God is viewed so intensely and seriously by the Almighty because it hurts Him and destroys the marriage relationship, leading to a divorce.

In a literal, physical sense, whoredom is making oneself available for affairs with at least one other partner instead of the one we have pledged ourselves to for life.

Such behaviours include (but is not limited to) idolatry (Ex 34:14-16; Jer 2:20; 3:1, 6, 8); sacrificing to demons (Lev 17:7; Deut 12:29-31; Rev 3:17; IIChron 11:15; Is 13:21; 34:14); going after other nations to pollute herself (Ezek 23:1-5, 19, 42-44; Hos 5:3-4; 6:9-10); or serving other gods. Or even mixing the true religion with the false (IIChron 21:11; Is 23:17. Cp Ezek 16:15, 26, 29).

Spiritual Whoredom

The lust of the flesh consumes one as one loses self-restraint – like an animal.

Similarly, do we cheat on God by lusting after worldly things, pleasures or false religion?

Are we consumed by selfish actions?

Spiritually, do we consider the seriousness of our baptismal vows and annual re-commitment at Passover?

The matter is so serious that neglecting our spiritual chastity will lead to His disavowing us – divorcing us and sending us away even into the spiritual wilderness; or into spiritual captivity as typed by Israel's punishments. Do we want that? Ultimately, do we want to miss out of the eternal spiritual experience and be consumed in the lake of fire?

God and Christ's heart must be broken when we drift away from a spiritual relationship with them:

“For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.” (II Cor 11:2)

The Church of God is the body of Christ – one spiritual flesh with Him.

“But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, **your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ** [ie like a wife to her husband]. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.” (II Cor 11:3-4)

Our thoughts, doctrines and practices can lead us astray – that is away from God and into apostasy.

Behaving like a fallen woman, the Church of God (or sections of it) or an individual Christian may enter into an adulterous relationship with the gods of this world by (amongst other things) compromising with the true doctrines or adopting political correctness. Committing whoredom with another spirit and attitude that differentiates the true believer from the false.

Even the true Gospel is watered-down and perverted. Do we “put up with it readily enough”? Putting up with it is bad enough, but what about acceptance? – that is even worse and something the Church of God must avoid at all cost.

Instead, another Jesus enters into the Church's life. This becomes her new lover – perhaps the rendezvous is for the short-term. That doesn't matter as the involvement with the world's ways may

escalate into something that it (or a Christian) dips in and out of. Or becomes permanent, leading to destruction. That other Jesus is a wimp who has long hair, proclaims a leftwing social gospel, is anti-nomian and Whom changes the meaning of the Old Testament. Does this other Jesus allow us to observe days not authorized in Scripture? What Jesus are we following?

We need to follow the real Jesus.

So, our absolute enemy – Satan the Devil – is doing all he can to lead us astray and into an unfaithful relationship with God Himself! Don't let him do it!

We must ask ourselves as individual Christians or as a local congregation or as a corporate whole: do we really want to hurt the heart of God? Do we really wish to turn away from Christ, the Bridegroom?

The human marriage relationship portrays ours with Him and the Church's with Him. So, how sad He must be when one wanders off into apostasy and refuses to return. As in a divorce, often-times one wants to forget they ever knew their ex-partner (cp. Matt 7: 21-23).

Thankfully our awesome God is so patient and merciful, wishing so much that we turn away from foreign gods and return to Him.

Though He is so kind, willing to patiently endure and be merciful, if our idols of selfishness, sins and false ideas keep us from Him, then He will finally say no more will be tolerated (Heb 6:4-6).

He has warned us time and again:

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” (IJohn 2:15-17)

The Spirit of Jezebel

In various parts of IKings (16:31 18:4-19; 19:1-2 (21:5-25) and IIKings (9:30-37) the pagan, Canaanite queen Jezebel appears on the scene – a woman whose name lives on in notoriety for centuries until this day (she lived around 2,800 years ago). Her enduring legacy has not disappeared into the mist of time, but continues as a witness to what not to be like morally or spiritually.

She became known for depravity and her wickedness has been portrayed in sermons, songs, movies, and prose. As such she epitomized the most sinful of women.

Her wickedness includes committing spiritual adultery by introducing the pagan Canaanite gods into Israel and murdering the prophets of God. While there is no hint of physical adultery, she is guilty of the spiritual element. She even leads King Ahab, her husband, to tolerate Baal and Asherah! In other words she spiritually seduced him and thus the nation, into breaking their covenant with God and joining themselves to His arch-enemy, Baal and all the associated disgusting, depraved and evil practices. As such she is a spiritual seductress and by virtue of this, she is a spiritual adulterer as well.

After some time, God finally ended her influence which is explained in II Kings 9.

How similar to the demise of a Great False Church, decked in purple, scarlet and gold that has likewise persecuted the saints.

“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.”

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.

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. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.” (Rev 17:1-6. Cp 14:8)

Prophetically, does this dove-tail in with the prophetic Thyatira era that caused so much trouble for God's people? Did this “great prostitute” arise over the centuries sometimes seducing the saint and at other times persecuting them?

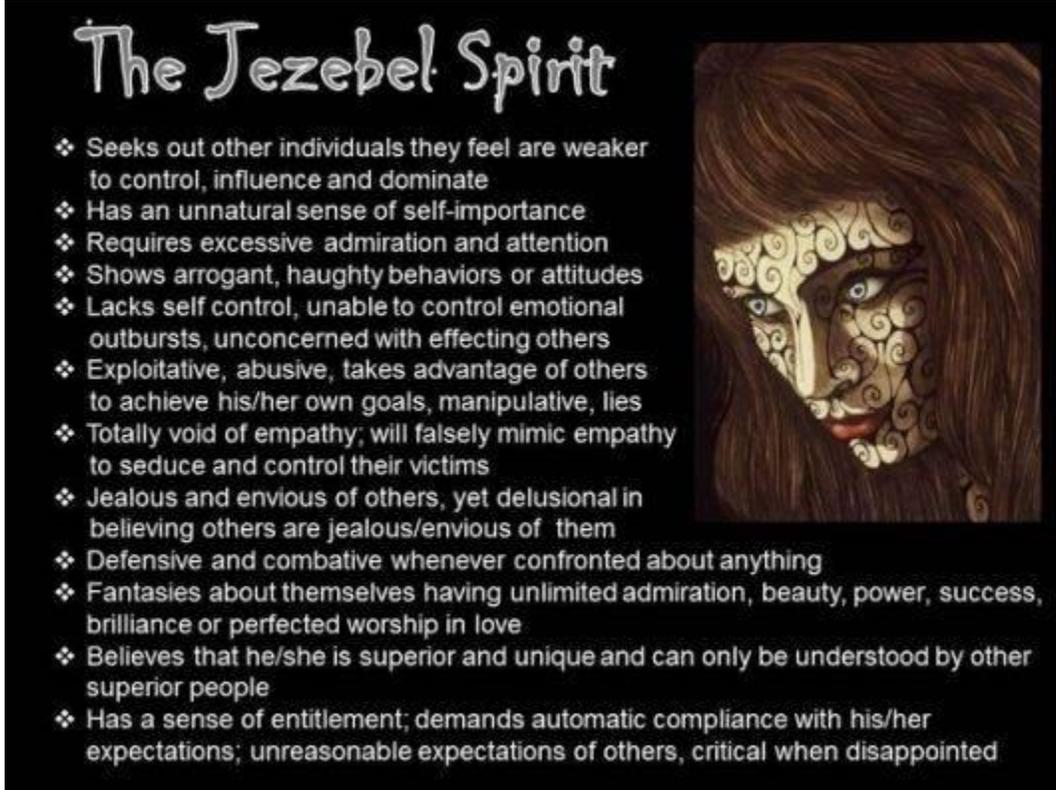
“But I have this against you, that you tolerate **that woman Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess and **is teaching and seducing my servants** to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

I gave her time to repent, but she refuses **to repent of her sexual immorality**.

Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.” (Rev 2:20-23)

As the physical portrays the spiritual, we may gauge the following:

- She committed adultery (not mentioned directly in the Old Testament)
- Seduced God's people into paganism
- God wanted her to repent (not mentioned directly in the Old Testament)
- Her children struck dead (Jezebel's daughter was executed and son shot with an arrow)



The spiritual lesson for any Christian is that Jezebel baits God's people into committing fornication. The Great False Church of this world will lead God's people astray. But not her alone – there are many other enticements that can gradually, slowly, subtly maneuver the people of God into false doctrines, political correctness and all sorts of sins.

“My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

For a prostitute is a deep pit; an adulteress is a narrow well.

She lies in wait like a robber and increases the traitors among mankind.” (Prov 23:26-28)

“For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,

to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

Do not desire her beauty **in your heart**, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes;

for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.” (Prov 6:23-26)

New Testament Revelations

The theme of spiritual whoredom continues into the New Testament – for the example of Israel is a clear warning to the Church of God.

There are a number of resources explaining the New Testament word that is most of used for sexual sins, *porneia*. One which provides a good explanation is *Thayer's Greek Lexicon*:

“STRONGS NT 4202: πορνεία
πορνεία, πορνείας, ἡ (πορνεύω),
the Sept. for פורנות, תנות, תנות, fornication (Vulg.fornicatio (and (Revelation
19:2)prostitutio)); used

a. properly, of illicit sexual intercourse in general (Demosthenes, 403, 27; 433, 25); Acts 15:20, 29; Acts 21:25 (that this meaning must be adopted in these passages will surprise no one who has learned from 1 Corinthians 6:12ff how leniently converts from among the heathen regarded this vice and how lightly they indulged in it; accordingly, all other interpretations of the term, such as of marriages within the prohibited degrees and the like, are to be rejected); Romans 1:29 Rec.; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 6:13, 18; 1 Corinthians 7:2; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Revelation 9:21; it is distinguished from μοιχεία in Matthew 15:19; Mark 7:21; and Galatians 5:19 Rec.; used of adultery ((cf. Hosea 2:2 (4), etc.)), Matthew 5:32; Matthew 19:9.

b. In accordance with a form of speech common in the O. T. and among the Jews which represents the close relationship existing between Jehovah and his people under the figure of a marriage (cf. Gesenius, Thesaurus, i., p. 422{a} following), πορνεία is used **metaphorically of the worship of idols**: Revelation 14:8; Revelation 17:2, 4; Revelation 18:3; Revelation 19:2; ἡμεῖς ἐκ πορνείας οὐ γεγεννήμεθα (we are not of a people given to idolatry), ἕνα πατέρα ἔχομεν τόν Θεόν, John 8:41 (ἄθεος μὲν ὁ ἄγονος, πολύθεος δὲ ὁ ἐκ πόρνης, τυφλωττων περί τόν ἀληθῆ πατέρα καί διά τοῦτο πολλούς ἀνθ' ἑνός γονεῖς αἰνιττόμενος, Philo de mig. Abr. § 12; τέκνα πορνείας, **of idolaters**, Hosea 1:2; (but in John, the passage cited others understand physical descent to be spoken of (cf. Meyer))); of the defilement of idolatry, as incurred by eating the sacrifices offered to idols, Revelation 2:21.”
[emphasis mine]

Further detailed explanation is found in **Appendix: “Prostitute, Prostitution”**. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* and **Appendix. Explanations from Bible Helps**.

“And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him.

For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, **sexual immorality**, theft, murder, **adultery**, coveting, wickedness, deceit, **sensuality**, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." (Mark 7:20-23)

So, the New Testament continues the same principles and Commandments of the Old Testament, including that of spiritual unfaithfulness or whoredom. The Greek word for sexual sins (which is typological of spiritual whoredom as we have seen) is *porneia* which is a work of the flesh (Gal 5:19).

"For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand." (Mark 13:22-23)

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to **deceitful [seducing] spirits and teachings of demons**

"... through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared" (II Tim 4:1-2. Cf. II Tim 3:13).

"I write these things to you about those who are **trying to deceive you.**" (I John 2:26)

"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." (Rev 2:20)

The above verses are clear – spiritual seduction – enticing one to commit spiritual adultery is demonic. After all, it is Satan's "seducing spirits" that lead to false doctrines. Many of them pagan or semi-pagan.

"Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for **God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.**" (Heb 13:4. Cp I Cor 6:9, 18-20; Eph 5:5; I Tim 1:10)

"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you **abstain from sexual immorality;**

that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.

For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you." (I Thess 4:3-8)

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”

But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.” (1Cor 6:15-18)

Instead, we must be chaste and pure (Rev 14:4).

The above can also be thought of as spiritual sexual sins – joining with foreign gods. There are ample Scriptures that one can look up for oneself concerning this grievous sin: Jer 3:2; Ezek 6:8-9; 16:15, 20, 22, 25, 43; Hos 2:2-5; 4:10-16, 18; Num 25:3-5; Ps 106:28; Is 56:3, 6; Jer 50:5; Zech 2:11.

Concluding Remarks

“Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of **her sexual immorality.**” (Rev 14:8. Cp 18:3; 2:20-21)

Do we want to be like the great fallen church and her daughters that have come out of her in protest?

Do we want to absorb political correctness like the world?

Do we want to be worldly and be attracted to what this world has to offer?

Or do we see that God has offered us eternal life and is faithful to deliver this free gift? That as the Church’s husband He is completely faithful to resurrect us to glory?

Therefore, whatever the seduction of this world and what it offers should not be of interest to us. It offers little in comparison to the eternal glory He offers. Its glitter, pleasures, false religions and such like are like dung.

Will we accept His offer and stay faithful? Or go a whoring after foreign gods?

There is a warning to us in Deuteronomy where those encouraging others to go into spiritual whoredom are put to death which is a type of eternal death:

“If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other gods,’ which neither you nor your fathers have known, some of the gods of the peoples who are around you, whether near you or far off from

you, from the one end of the earth to the other,

you shall not yield to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him, nor shall you conceal him.

But you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.

You shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

And all Israel shall hear and fear and never again do any such wickedness as this among you.

"If you hear in one of your cities, which the LORD your God is giving you to dwell there, that certain worthless fellows have gone out among you **and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known,**

then you shall inquire and make search and ask diligently. And behold, if it be true and certain that such an abomination has been done among you,

you shall surely put the inhabitants of that city to the sword, devoting it to destruction, all who are in it and its cattle, with the edge of the sword.

You shall gather all its spoil into the midst of its open square and burn the city and all its spoil with fire, as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God. It shall be a heap forever. It shall not be built again.

None of the devoted things shall stick to your hand, that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger and show you mercy and have compassion on you and multiply you, as he swore to your fathers,

if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, keeping all his commandments that I am commanding you today, and doing what is right in the sight of the LORD your God."

(Deut 13:6-18)

If we choose the wrong option, the terrifying ultimate penalty for sexual immorality (both physical and spiritual) is found in Rev 21:8.

Appendix: “Prostitute, Prostitution”. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*

PROSTITUTE,PROSTITUTION (pp. 2277-2283)

Literal references to named prostitutes are few in the Bible.

Of three,Tamar and Rahab are treated with dignity in Israel (Gen 38:6 –24;Josh 2:1 –21). By contrast,Delilah fits the frequent figurative portraits and metaphors of prostitutes in both the OT [OT.Old Testament] and the NT [NT NT. New Testament] .

From the most common metaphors,we understand that greed feeds the heart of a prostitute.Whether because of genuine need or base ambition,a prostitute takes the posture of grasping,seeking satiation at all costs while also promising satiation for a price.Self-indulgence is at the heart of prostitution (see Self-Control).

Careless Destruction-A Prostitute ’s Action.A prostitute,also called a harlot,is a person who provides sexual activity in exchange for material security.Generally a woman,she is distinguished from an adulterer by her lack of discrimination in partner choice.Proverbs characterizes her as loud,defiant,brazen,undisciplined and ignorant (Prov 6:26;9:13).She is the foil of a loyal wife,catering her attentions to the highest bidder,pursuing self-interest with numerous men rather than faithfully supporting one man.

Delilah and the foolish woman of Proverbs illustrate in action and description the treacherous ways of a prostitute. The wise teacher of Proverbs warns against the harlot ’s careless attitude toward clients:“the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread ” (Prov 6:26 NIV [NIV NIV.New International Version]).For hope of payment,Delilah repeatedly betrays Samson to the Philistines (Judg 16).When Samson finally confides the truth to her deviant ear,the teacher ’s lament regarding another seduction scene comes to mind:

All at once he followed her
like an ox going to the slaughter,
like a deer stepping into a noose
till an arrow pierces his liver,
like a bird darting into a snare,
little knowing it will cost him his life.
(Prov 7:22 –23 NIV [NIV NIV.New International Version])

Delilah ’s treachery,like all prostitute actions,leads to death; warnings against this trail to the grave punctuate the wisdom sayings (Prov 2:16 –19;5:3 –5;7:6 –27;9:18).

Quick Profits-A Prostitute ’s Goal. Delilah sets the image of the greedy,smooth-talking woman.The image is metaphorically applied to Israelites who reject God ’s provision to seek gain from other means.Individuals and the Israelite nation as a whole are accused of harlotry when they seek security from mediums and spiritists (Lev 20:6), military might (Nahum 3:1 –4),political alliances (Ezek 23:5 –6)or commerce (Is 23:17).Because they value material gain too highly,Israelites who accept bribes and abandon God ’s plan of social justice are also considered harlots (Is 1:21 –23).

Above all these, however, idolatry stands as the most common cause for the epithet “prostitute.”

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one” (Deut 6:4 NIV [NIV NIV. New International Version]). The Israelites’ monotheistic stance distinguished Judaism from the polytheism of other ancient religions; the idea of monogamy thus undergirds figurative prostitute accusations. God’s covenant with Israel is comparable to a monogamous marriage; he provides for her, raises her to a special place of honor and asks her to support his plan. The proper response for such provision is gratitude, love and obedience; instead Israel ignores God’s provision and pursues the promises of other gods in Canaan, home of God’s promise. Seven times Israel is said to prostitute itself before other gods; the strong verb position of the word aptly describes Israel’s betrayal (Ex 34:15, 16; Lev 17:7; Lev 20:6; Deut 31:16; 2 Chron 21:11, 13). God says it is the “spirit of prostitution” that causes Israel to “ask counsel from wooden idols” (Hos 4:12).

From Hosea’s own painful experience with Gomer, his adulterous wife, he paints one of three OT [OT. Old Testament] metaphors of prostitution to describe Israel’s idolatrous pursuit. Like a willful woman, Israel says, “I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink.” Hosea explains, “She has not acknowledged that [God] was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil, who lavished on her the silver and gold—which they used for Baal” (Hos 2:5, 8 NIV [NIV NIV. New International Version]). Israel is like Gomer, allured by the apparent easy gain of adultery.

Gomer’s action further shadows Israel’s as she tastes adultery, finds it lacking for all its ease and returns to her husband. Hosea accurately anticipates Israel’s action: “She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will say, ‘I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now’” (Hos 2:7 NIV [NIV NIV. New International Version]).

Like Gomer, Israel prostitutes herself for lovers/idols who promise much and do not demand as much as God. When she finds their rewards lacking, she returns to God. The image of grasping for more pleasure summarizes Israel’s prostitution.

By Force or by Choice—a Prostitute’s Motivation. In ancient cultures a person came to prostitution either by force or by choice. Many cultures devalued female babies, so infant girls were often left to die and then picked up by people who raised them for prostitution. Their forced condition prompted mercy. By contrast, free women prostituted themselves either in worship to a pagan god or to make a living; both realms centered on securing material prosperity.

Though many lived anonymous, a well-known professional prostitute could become quite wealthy from the gifts of her visitors. Fertility cults that worshiped Baal advocated intercourse between worshipers and religious prostitutes — both male and female — to encourage the gods to bestow greater fertility on land, livestock and people. Before the Israelites entered the Promised Land, God cautioned them against these cults: “Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for ... they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them.... They will lead [you] to do the same” (Ex 34:15–16 NIV [NIV NIV. New International Version]). When Israel followed pagan prostitute habits, Hosea indicted the nation, saying, “You have been unfaithful to your God; you love the wages of a prostitute” (Hos 9:1 NIV [NIV NIV. New International Version]). The choice for either professional or religious prostitution was self-seeking, not self-sacrificial. Judgment, not mercy, followed this choice.

The Orphan Queen’s Chosen Ruin. Given the motivation of force or choice, Ezekiel’s image of Israel’s idolatry-prostitution holds a potent completeness: God tells of rescuing Israel from the mud as a kicking

baby with her umbilical cord still attached, and then nurturing her and adorning her with beauty and finery. Saved from a probable life of forced prostitution, she was blessed with the finest food and clothes and gained fame for her beauty. Yet God explains that Israel “trusted in [her] beauty and used [her] fame to become a prostitute ” who, in a repulsive twist, paid others to solicit her (see Ezek 16:3 – 41). Israel ’s idolatry is pictured as an orphan — queen ’s choice for professional prostitution that involved both work and worship.

Though other religions suggested spiritual, cosmic reasons for prostitution, the Bible is uniform in its description of prostitution as base and animal-like, unbefitting human dignity at any level. Israel chose to follow the cults God had warned against (Ps 106:35 –39). Through Jeremiah, God notes the nation ’s resulting brazen and degraded state in his accusation:

On every high hill and under every spreading tree,
you lay down as a prostitute.... How can you say, ‘I am not defiled; I have not run after the Baals?’...
You are a swift she-camel running here and there,
a wild donkey accustomed to the desert,
sniffing the wind in her craving-
in her heat who can restrain her?
(Jer 2:20,23 –24 NIV [NIV NIV. New International Version])

God had commanded Israel, “[Do] not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own heart and eyes ” (Num 15:39 NIV [NIV NIV. New International Version]). In his eyes prostitution is self-indulgence, not self-sacrifice.

Devastating Judgment—a Prostitute ’s Future. Those who traffic in base passions with many lovers risk suffering violent abuse, punishment and even death. Ezekiel warns God ’s unfaithful people:

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will stir up your
lovers against you.... They will deal with you in fury, they
will cut off your noses and your ears.... They will take away
your sons and daughters.... They will leave you naked and
bare, and the shame of your prostitution will be exposed.
Your lewdness and promiscuity have brought this upon you,
because you lusted after the nations and defiled yourself
with their idols. (Ezek 23:22,25,29 –30 NIV [NIV NIV. New
International Version])

Images of prostitution are completed by judgment. In Revelation ’s judgment, prostitution again assumes figurative force. Babylon, the city of godlessness, decadence, materialism and ruthless power, is pictured as the Great Whore “which made all nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries ” (Rev 14:8 NIV [NIV NIV. New International Version]). To the terror of those who sought her, her judgment results in an endless billow of smoke (Rev 19:1 –3).

Judgment for prostitution, especially of a religious nature, is finally complete and without mercy, but mercy is available for the repentant heart.

Divine Mercy —a Prostitute’s Hope. Prostitution is a dark background against which God’s gracious forgiveness and restoration shine bright. All three OT [OT OT. Old Testament] allegories of prostitution end with a promise that God will take back the wayward woman, forgive her sins and establish a new, mutually loving relationship with her (Jer 3:11 –18; Ezek 16:53 –63; Hos 2:14 –3:5; see Love Story).

In the NT [NT NT. New Testament] Gospels and Epistles this note of grace is carried forward in literal accounts of prostitution. Jesus commends the sinful woman who pours perfume and tears on his feet (Lk 7:36 –50), because her acute awareness of failure has opened her heart to love and believe in him. He provokes the religious leaders, saying, “The tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you” (Mt 21:31 NIV [NIV NIV. New International Version]). Paul notes that even though some of the Corinthians had been engaged in prostitution, they have now been washed, sanctified and justified through Christ (1Cor 6:9 –11). Prostitution is thus revealed as an opportunity for God’s forgiving, redeeming power to be made manifest.

See also Adultery; Apostasy; Folly; Idol, Idolatry; Marriage; Seduction, Seducer; Seductress; Sex; Woman, Images of.

ABHOR, LOATHE

From the divine vantage point **God is nauseated by any human activity that is not in accordance with his law** (Lev 26:11; Prov 11:1; Ezek 23:18). Sin and idolatry are common targets of God’s abhorrence (Deut 7:25; 12:3). His disgust with them grows to the point where he cannot bear them any longer. God warns fledgling Israel to avoid adopting the customs of the Canaanites, whom he is about to drive out because he “abhorred them” (Lev 20:23 NRSV [NRSV NRSV. New Revised Standard Version]; cf. [cf. cf.. compare] Deut 18:9, 12). He later warns his people that if they ignore his warnings and follow the surrounding nations in their idolatry, they too will be the recipients of his disgust (Lev 26:30). Specific practices that God finds abhorrent include eating unclean animals (Deut 14:3), sacrificing flawed animals (Deut 17:1), cross-dressing (Deut 22:5), using a prostitute’s fee as a religious offering (Deut 23:18), a husband’s resuming relations with a wife whom he has divorced (Deut 24:4), dishonesty (Deut 25:16), lying (Ps 5:6), the religious ceremonies of unrepentant people (Amos 5:21) and [overly] nationalistic pride (Amos 6:8). In the book of **Revelation Christ’s spewing the lukewarm Laodiceans out his mouth is a gesture of disgust** (3:16).

Appendix. Explanations from Bible Helps

Strong - Exhaustive Concordance

“cause to commit fornication, continually, great, be an, play the harlot
A primitive root (highly-fed and therefore wanton); to commit adultery (usually of the female, and less often of simple fornication, rarely of involuntary ravishment); **figuratively, to commit idolatry (the Jewish people being regarded as the spouse of Jehovah) -- (cause to) commit fornication, X continually, X great, (be an, play the) harlot, (cause to be, play the) whore, (commit, fall to) whoredom, (cause to) go a-whoring, whorish.**” [emphasis mine]

Gesenius' - Biblical Hebrew and Chaldee

“(2) It is very often used figuratively
(a) of idolatry, [to go a whoring after strange gods,] (the prophets shadowing forth the relation in which God stood to the people of Israel by the marriage union, see Hosea 1:2; Ezekiel 16:23 so that the people worshipping strange gods is compared to an adulterous woman). For the prepositions which follow, see above, No. 1. A very common expression is **זָנָה אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים** to go a whoring after strange gods, Leviticus 17:7, 20:5, Leviticus 20:6; Deuteronomy 31:16; Judges 2:17 also, **זָנָה מִתַּחַת אֱלֹהֵיוּ** **to go a whoring, departing from one's own God**, see above. The expression also is used **זָנָה אַחֲרֵי הַגּוֹיִם** to go a whoring after (i.e. imitating) the gentiles, Ezekiel 23:30.” [emphasis mine]
<https://www.studylight.org/lexicons/hebrew/2181.html>

Brown-Driver-Briggs - Hebrew and English Lexicon

“**1** *be or act as a harlot*, absolute Genesis 38:24 (J), Deuteronomy 22:21 (D), Leviticus 21:9 (H), Hosea 4:13,14; Amos 7:17; **אִשָּׁה** (ה) + **זוֹנָה** Joshua 2:1; Joshua 6:22 (J), Leviticus 21:7 (H), Judges 11:1; Judges 16:1; Proverbs 6:26; Jeremiah 3:3; Ezekiel 16:30; Ezekiel 23:44; **זוֹנָה** Genesis 34:31; Genesis 38:15; Joshua 6:17,25 (all J), Deuteronomy 23:19; Leviticus 21:14 (H), Proverbs 7:10; Proverbs 23:27; Isaiah 23:15,16; Joel 4:3; Micah 1:7 (twice in verse); Ezekiel 16:31; **1 נָשִׁים זָנוֹת** Kings 3:16; **1 זָנוֹת** Kings 22:38; Proverbs 29:3; Hosea 3:3; Hosea 4:14; Ezekiel 16:33; **בֵּית זוֹנָה** Jeremiah 5:7; *commit fornication*, man's act **אֵלֶּז** Numbers 25:1 (J); of woman's act Judges 19:2; of land given to harlotry Leviticus 19:29.

2 figurative of improper intercourse with foreign nations (religious reference sometimes involved) **אֵתֶּךָ** Isaiah 23:17; אחרי Ezekiel 23:30; אל Ezekiel 16:26,28 (twice in verse); **תְּזַנְוִתִּיךָ** Ezekiel 23:43; Nahum 3:4; **וַתִּזְנֶן אֶתְּלָהּ תַּחְתֵּי** and *Ohola committed fornication (whilst) under me* Ezekiel 23:5 (compare Numbers 5:19).

3 of intercourse with other deities, considered as harlotry, sometimes involving actual prostitution, אחרי'ז Exodus 34:15,16; Deuteronomy 31:16 (all J), Leviticus 17:7; Leviticus 20:5 (twice in verse) (all H), Judges 2:17; Judges 8:27,33; 1 Chronicles 5:25; Ezekiel 6:9; Ezekiel 20:30; after **אֵבֶת**, etc. Leviticus 20:6 (H), one's own heart & eyes Numbers 15:39 (H); especially of Israel, Judah, and

Jerusalem under figure of lewd woman Ezekiel 16:15 (absolute) Ezekiel 16:16 (על במית), Ezekiel 16:17 (בִּזְ), Ezekiel 23:3 (twice in verse); Ezekiel 23:19 (absolute), Jeremiah 3:1 (with accusative); Jeremiah 3:6; Jeremiah 3:8 (absolute); absolute elsewhere Hosea 2:7; Hosea 4:15; Isaiah 57:3; Psalm 106:39; as leaving י', followed by מַעַל Hosea 9:1; מאחרי Hosea 1:2 (twice in verse); מתחת Hosea 4:12; followed by מן alone Psalm 73:27; ז(ו)נה Jeremiah 2:20; Ezekiel 16:35,41; בית זונה Jeremiah 5:7; לִבָּם הַזֹּנֶה *their whorish heart* Ezekiel 6:9." [emphasis mine]

Appendix: Scriptures on Whoredom

1 Chronicles-1 5:25 And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and went a whoring after the gods of the people of the land, whom God destroyed before them.
1 Corinthians 6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.
1 Corinthians-6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make [them] the members of an harlot? God forbid.
2 Chronicles-21:13 But hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, [which were] better than thyself:
2 Kings-9:22 And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, [Is it] peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts [are so] many?
Amos 7:17 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land.
Deuteronomy 22:21 Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die: because she hath wrought folly in Israel, to play the whore in her father's house: so shalt thou put evil away from among you.
Deuteronomy 23:17 There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.
Deuteronomy 23:18 Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these [are] abomination unto the LORD thy God.
Deuteronomy 31:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go [to be] among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.
Exodus 34:15 Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and [one] call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;
Exodus 34:16 And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods.
Ezekiel 16:15 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.
Ezekiel 16:16 And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckedst thy high places with divers colours, and playedst the harlot thereupon: [the like things] shall not come, neither shall it be [so].
Ezekiel 16:17 Thou hast also taken thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest to thyself images of men, and didst commit whoredom with them,

Ezekiel 16:20

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 16:22

And in all thine abominations and thy whoredoms thou hast not remembered the days of thy youth, when thou wast naked and bare, [and] wast polluted in thy blood.

Ezekiel 16:25

Thou hast built thy high place at every head of the way, and hast made thy beauty to be abhorred, and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and multiplied thy whoredoms.

Ezekiel 16:26

Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger.

Ezekiel 16:28

Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied.

Ezekiel 16:28

Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied.

Ezekiel 16:31

In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire;

Ezekiel 16:33

They give gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom.

Ezekiel 16:34

And the contrary is in thee from [other] women in thy whoredoms, whereas none followeth thee to commit whoredoms: and in that thou givest a reward, and no reward is given unto thee, therefore thou art contrary.

Ezekiel 16:35

Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD:

Ezekiel 16:36

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness discovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers, and with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood of thy children, which thou didst give unto them;

Ezekiel 16:41

And they shall burn thine houses with fire, and execute judgments upon thee in the sight of many women: and I will cause thee to cease from playing the harlot, and thou also shalt give no hire any more.

Ezekiel 20:30

Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye whoredom after their abominations?

Ezekiel 23:11

And when her sister Aholibah saw [this], she was more corrupt in her inordinate love than she, and in her whoredoms more than her sister in [her] whoredoms.

Ezekiel 23:14

And [that] she increased her whoredoms: for when she saw men portrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed with vermilion,

Ezekiel 23:17

And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoredom, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them.

Ezekiel 23:18

So she discovered her whoredoms, and discovered her nakedness: then my mind was alienated from her, like as my mind was alienated from her sister.

Ezekiel 23:19

Yet she multiplied her whoredoms, in calling to remembrance the days of her youth, wherein she had played the harlot in the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 23:27

Thus will I make thy lewdness to cease from thee, and thy whoredom [brought] from the land of Egypt: so that thou shalt not lift up thine eyes unto them, nor remember Egypt any more.

Ezekiel 23:29

And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour, and shall leave thee naked and bare: and the nakedness of thy whoredoms shall be discovered, both thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.

Ezekiel 23:3

And they committed whoredoms in Egypt; they committed whoredoms in their youth: there were their breasts pressed, and there they bruised the teats of their virginity.

Ezekiel 23:30

I will do these [things] unto thee, because thou hast gone a whoring after the heathen, [and] because thou art polluted with their idols.

Ezekiel 23:35

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.

Ezekiel 23:43

Then said I unto [her that was] old in adulteries, Will they now commit whoredoms with her, and she [with them]?

Ezekiel 23:44

Yet they went in unto her, as they go in unto a woman that playeth the harlot: so went they in unto Aholah and unto Aholibah, the lewd women.

Ezekiel 23:5

And Aholah played the harlot when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians [her] neighbours,

Ezekiel 23:7

Thus she committed her whoredoms with them, with all them [that were] the chosen men of Assyria, and with all on whom she doted: with all their idols she defiled herself.

Ezekiel 23:8

Neither left she her whoredoms [brought] from Egypt: for in her youth they lay with her, and they bruised the breasts of her virginity, and poured their whoredom upon her.

Ezekiel 43:7

And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, [neither] they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.

Ezekiel 43:9

Now let them put away their whoredom, and the carcasses of their kings, far from me, and I will dwell in the midst of them for ever.

Ezekiel 6:9

And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall loathe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

Genesis 34:31

And they said, Should he deal with our sister as with an harlot?

Genesis 38:15

When Judah saw her, he thought her [to be] an harlot; because she had covered her face.

Genesis 38:21

Then he asked the men of that place, saying, Where [is] the harlot, that [was] openly by the way side? And they said, There was no harlot in this [place].

Genesis 38:22

And he returned to Judah, and said, I cannot find her; and also the men of the place said, [that] there was no harlot in this [place].

Genesis 38:24

And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she [is] with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.

Hebrews 11:31

By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

Hosea 1:2

The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, [departing] from the LORD.

Hosea 2:2

Plead with your mother, plead: for she [is] not my wife, neither [am] I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;

Hosea 2:4

And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they [be] the children of whoredoms.

Hosea 2:5

For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give [me] my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink.

Hosea 3:3

And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for [another] man: so [will] I also [be] for thee.

Hosea 4:10

For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD.

Hosea 4:11

Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.

Hosea 4:12

My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused [them] to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

Hosea 4:13

They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof [is] good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery.

Hosea 4:14

I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people [that] doth not understand shall fall.

Hosea 4:15

Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, [yet] let not Judah offend; and come not ye unto Gilgal, neither go ye up to Bethaven, nor swear, The LORD liveth.

Hosea 4:18

Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers [with] shame do love, Give ye.

<p>Hosea 5:3 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, [and] Israel is defiled.</p>
<p>Hosea 5:4 They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms [is] in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD.</p>
<p>Hosea 6:10 I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there [is] the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled.</p>
<p>Hosea 9:1 Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as [other] people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor.</p>
<p>Isaiah 1:21 How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.</p>
<p>Isaiah 23:15 And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot.</p>
<p>Isaiah 23:16 Take an harp, go about the city, thou harlot that hast been forgotten; make sweet melody, sing many songs, that thou mayest be remembered.</p>
<p>Isaiah 57:3 But draw near hither, ye sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore.</p>
<p>James 2:25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent [them] out another way?</p>
<p>Jeremiah 13:27 I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, [and] thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? when [shall it] once [be]?</p>
<p>Jeremiah 2:20 For of old time I have broken thy yoke, [and] burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot.</p>
<p>Jeremiah 3:1 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.</p>
<p>Jeremiah 3:2 Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.</p>
<p>Jeremiah 3:6 The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen [that] which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.</p>
<p>Jeremiah 3:8 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.</p>
<p>Jeremiah 3:9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.</p>
<p>Joel 3:3 And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.</p>

Joshua 6:17

And the city shall be accursed, [even] it, and all that [are] therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that [are] with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

Joshua 6:25

And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel [even] unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Judges 11:1

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he [was] the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.

Judges 16:1

Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.

Judges 19:2

And his concubine played the whore against him, and went away from him unto her father's house to Bethlehemjudah, and was there four whole months.

Judges 2:17

And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; [but] they did not so.

Judges 8:27

And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, [even] in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.

Judges 8:33

And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baalberith their god.

Leviticus 17:7

And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations.

Leviticus 19:29

Do not prostitute thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore; lest the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness.

Leviticus 20:5

Then I will set my face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people.

Leviticus 20:6

And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

Leviticus 21:14

A widow, or a divorced woman, or profane, [or] an harlot, these shall he not take: but he shall take a virgin of his own people to wife.

Leviticus 21:7

They shall not take a wife [that is] a whore, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband: for he [is] holy unto his God.

Leviticus 21:9

And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: she shall be burnt with fire.

Micha 1:7

And all the graven images thereof shall be beaten to pieces, and all the hires thereof shall be burned with the fire, and all the idols thereof will I lay desolate: for she gathered [it] of the hire of an harlot, and they shall return to the hire of an harlot.

Nahum 3:4 Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.
Nahum 3:4 Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.
Numbers 14:33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness.
Numbers 15:39 And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:
Numbers 25:1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.
Proverbs 23:27 For a whore [is] a deep ditch; and a strange woman [is] a narrow pit.
Proverbs 7:10 And, behold, there met him a woman [with] the attire of an harlot, and subtle of heart.
Psalms 106:39 Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.
Psalms 73:27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.
Revelations 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:
Revelations 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.
Revelations 17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.
Revelations 19:2 For true and righteous [are] his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

Fornication is a similar word for infidelity and unfaithfulness in all sexual areas. A list of the Scriptures (mainly New Testament) may be found [here](#).

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