

Session 14 The False Prophet (Rev. 13:11-18)

I. OVERVIEW OF THE FALSE PROPHET

- A. Satan's two primary goals in His war against God's people (Rev. 12-13). The new developments of Satan's End-Time strategy are seen for the first time in Scripture. Most of the Book of Revelation is not a revelation of Satan's role but God's. Thus, Rev. 12-13 is rare and helpful insight into Satan's role in the End-Times. The ten-nation confederation, worldwide worship movement, miracles and demonic preaching is in Daniel but not the False Prophet, image, head wound and mark (economic sanctions).
1. First, he will **raise up a worship (and prayer) movement** in which the Antichrist will be worshipped and obeyed many people worldwide (Rev. 13:4, 8, 12, 15). This worship movement will cause the people in the kingdom of darkness to have a deep heart connect with Satan. This will be the most power, passionate and dangerous time in world history.
 2. Second, he will seek to **destroy the Jewish people** so that remnant of Israel cannot invite Jesus back to Jerusalem to rule them as their Messiah King (Mt. 23:37-39; Rev. 12:13-17). He will seek to kill Christians who stand with God's purposes for Israel.
- B. Satan's two primary strategies in achieving his goals will be to give his power to the **Antichrist** and the **False Prophet**, the two beasts that John saw coming against Israel (Rev. 13:1, 11). The False Prophet will be the Antichrist's propaganda minister (public relations) who will publicize the Antichrist's "greatness" as he speaks for him. He will present himself as "Elijah" who will come and prepare the way of the Messiah (Mal. 4:5-6).
- C. They will both give "demonically anointed" messages (prophetic preaching) that will be confirmed by demonic signs and wonders to mobilize their worship and prayer movement. We gain insight their "powerful" public speaking by seeing the example of Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels, his minister of propaganda (Public Relations) in Nazi Germany. They both powerfully moved the masses to tears, then to fanatical commitment to Hitler.
- D. The False Prophet's two primary strategies to mobilize and finance the Antichrist's global worship movement will be the **image** of the Beast and the **mark** of the Beast (Rev. 13:13-18). The **image** will be used to mobilize the Antichrist's worshippers and penalize those who resist. It will combine technology with demonic activity. The **mark** will provide economic support for the Antichrist's worship movement and economic oppression against these who resist him.
- E. The False Prophet will be a real person not merely a representation of a false religious system, philosophy or influence. Every aspect of his career in Scripture calls for a real person. We ignore the prophetic details of Scripture by failing to recognize an individual personality. For example, the False Prophet is cast alive into the Lake of Fire. A religious system cannot be cast into fire. All prophets, true or false in Scripture have been individual persons.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE FALSE PROPHET'S CAREER (REV. 13:11-18)

¹¹ Then I saw another beast (False Prophet) coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first Beast (Antichrist) in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first Beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the Beast (Antichrist), telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the Beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ He was granted power to give breath to the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the Beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666. (Rev. 13:11-18)

A. Overview of the False Prophet's career (Rev. 13:11-18)

Rev. 13:11 His nature (beastly); power (Satan), sphere of activity (religion/economics); deception (lamb-like); origin (demonic)

Rev. 13:12 He mobilizes the worldwide worship movement

Rev. 13:13-14b His great miracles (fire falling from heaven)

Rev. 13:14b-15b Image of the Beast (breathing, thinking, talking)

Rev. 13:15c Legislation to imprison and kill resisters

Rev. 13:16-17 Mark of the Beast (economic sanctions and monopolies)

Rev. 13:18 The need for God's wisdom

B. Summary: five major trends in the False Prophet's activity (Rev. 13:11-17) include:

1). Demonicly empowered public messages (Rev. 13:11-12)

2). Demonic miracles (Rev. 13:13-14)

3). Worldwide economic oppression (Rev. 13:15)

4). Martyrdom of the resisters that he captures (Rev. 13:16-17)

5). Legislation that allows him to be unrestricted in his persecution and oppression (Rev. 13:15)

C. The False Prophet and many false prophets will prophesy by demonic power as a counterfeit to the true End-Time prophetic movement (Elijah, Two Witnesses, Rev. 10 messengers). Worship and intercession as well as "supernatural prophetic" preaching in both kingdoms will come to their highest levels in history. This will be the most dramatic and dangerous time in history.

¹⁷ I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...¹⁹ I will show wonders...²⁰ before the great and awesome day of the LORD. (Acts 2:17-20)

⁵ I will send Elijah the prophet before the...great and dreadful day of the LORD. (Mal. 4:5)

³ I will give power to my Two Witnesses, and they will prophesy 1,260 days...⁶ These have power to shut heaven...in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. (Rev. 11:3-6)

III. FALSE PROPHET: HIS NATURE, POWER, SPHERE OF ACTIVITY, ORIGIN (REV. 13:11)

¹¹ *Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. (Rev. 13:11)*

- A. The **two horns** represent the False Prophet's power. His two horns probably refer to him having authority over two large areas of international life such as religion and economics (Rev. 17-18) or two regions since the Antichrist's 10 horns (Rev. 13:1) represent his 10-nation confederation.
- B. He will appear as a **lamb** as he deceitfully presents himself as being as mild and gentle as a lamb. He will hide behind a public façade of being as harmless as a lamb. He will not come to power in context to waging a war or by military might but as a spiritual teacher (not as a political ruler or a military hero). His effectiveness is found in his appearance of kindness and domesticity.
- C. He will speak like a **dragon** (Satan; Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4, 16:13; 20:2). This refers to the power, agenda and intelligence of his speeches. He will speak with intelligence and powerful demonic inspiration as he establishes the Antichrist's evil agenda in the nations.
- D. The False Prophet is called "**another beast**" to clearly reveal that even though he will present himself as a lamb, he will have the same beastly cruel nature as the Antichrist. He is not called the False Prophet in Rev. 13, but is in the other 3 references to him (Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).
- E. The False Prophet will **come up** out of the earth. "Coming up" portrays a gradual ascendancy as a world leader. He will come up **out of the earth** in contrast to the Antichrist who is the "Beast who arises from the sea" or in context to the political agitation in the nations (Rev. 13:1).
- F. The earth represents that which is more settled and firm in society (than the sea). This may point to religious systems which are more firm than political ones. Coming up from the earth may refer to him coming to power in context to unifying the established world religions.
- G. Coming up out of the earth probably also means coming up from the under-world of demons (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6). The Antichrist and the False Prophet are empowered from the demonic realm. This gives insight into why neither of them die but are cast alive into the Lake of Fire (Rev 19:20). To ascend out of the earth may refer to coming up from the bottomless pit as the Antichrist does (Rev. 11:7; 17:8). The bottomless pit is not infinite in size. Rather both ends of it function as an entrance, thus, it has no bottom (Rev. 9:1-2, 11; 11:7; 17:8, 11; 20:1, 3).
- H. The spirit of Samuel visited the witch of Endor when he ascended "out of the earth".
¹³ *The woman said to Saul, "I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth." (1 Sam. 28:13)*
- I. David prophetically described a man as "the evil man" (Ps. 10:15) or "the man of the earth" (Ps. 10:18) who will be destroyed by King Jesus when all the Gentile nations in the land of Israel perish (Ps. 10:16). David's description of him as "the man of the earth" means a specific man.

IV. THE FALSE PROPHET MOBILIZES A WORLDWIDE WORSHIP MOVEMENT (REV. 13:12)

¹² *He exercises all the authority of the first Beast (Antichrist) in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first Beast, whose deadly wound was healed. (Rev. 13:12)*

- A. The False Prophet's primary goal is to raise up a worldwide worship movement in which Satan and the Antichrist are worshipped (Rev. 13:4, 8, 12, 15).
- B. The False Prophet will exercise all the authority of the Antichrist. John emphasized three times that the False Prophet will work miracles in the Antichrist's presence (Rev. 13:12, 14; 19:20). This may refer to being under the watchful eye (scrutiny) of the Antichrist. The leaders in the Nazi high command hated and mistrusted each other. The same is true of the demonic realm.

¹⁴ *He deceives...by signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the Beast... (Rev. 13:14)*

²⁰ *The False Prophet who worked signs in his presence... (Rev. 19:20)*

V. THE FALSE PROPHET'S GREAT MIRACLES (REV. 13:13-14A)

¹³ *He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs... (Rev. 13:13-14a)*

- A. The False Prophet will perform great signs (plural) that will be great in power as well as great in significance and deception (Rev. 16:14; 19:20; 13:14; Mt. 24:11, 24; Mk. 13:22; 2 Thes. 2:9).
- B. The False Prophet will call down fire as a counterfeit Elijah who called fire down from heaven in his "clash of power" with the prophets of Baal (1 Kg. 18:38; 2 Kgs. 1:10-12). The False Prophet will have a clash of power with the Two Witnesses who will call fire from heaven (Rev. 11:5).
- C. False prophets often give accurate prophetic words. How can we discern false prophets and miracles? They seek to turn people from obeying Jesus. The premier issue is not in the power of the gifting (accuracy) but in its fruit (whether it motivates people to worship and obey Jesus).

²⁴ *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. (Mt. 24:24)*

¹⁵ *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. (Mt. 7:15-16)*

- D. Why will God allow great miracles? To test His people to see if they will love and obey God.

¹ *If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and the sign or the wonder comes to pass...saying, 'Let us go after other gods...³ You shall not listen to the words of that prophet...for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart...⁵ But that prophet...shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God...to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. (Deut. 13:1-5)*

VI. THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST WHO BREATHES AND SPEAKS (REV. 13:12, 14B-15B)

- A. The False Prophet will tell people to make an image that is associated with the Antichrist. He was granted power (permission by God to use Satan's authority) to give breath to the image or to give it a false "appearance" of life. The image of the Beast will speak, thus, it will appear to "think freely" (it will do this by demonic spirits).

¹² And he (False Prophet)...causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first Beast...¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs...telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the Beast...¹⁵ He was granted power to give breath to the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the Beast to be killed. (Rev. 13:12, 14-15)

- B. The image of the Beast will be an idol of the Antichrist's that will combine cutting edge technology and supernatural demonic elements causing this image to breathe and speak.
- C. The image may be a high-tech hologram that looks and sounds like the Antichrist.
- D. The False Prophet will tell the leaders in the nations to make an image to the Antichrist. I believe that many local leaders will have a duplicate image of the Antichrist that will be demonically and technologically connected to the "primary" image in Jerusalem. The result will be a global network of local "Antichrist worship sanctuaries" that may include high-tech images (holograms?) of the Antichrist. These "worship sanctuaries" may provide false prophecies.
- E. I believe the image will speak to the people in personal ways by prophesying by demonic power about private matters. It may relate to dreams or private conversations with a deceased person (séance) as a counterfeit to the End-Time worship and prophetic movement (Acts 2:17-21).

VII. THE FALSE PROPHET'S LEGISLATION TO IMPRISON AND KILL (REV. 13:15C)

¹⁵ He was granted power to give breath to the image of the Beast, that the image of the Beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the Beast to be killed. (Rev. 13:15)

- A. The False Prophet will cause (command) all the nations to worship the Antichrist as God. All will be required by law to worship the Antichrist. The False Prophet will have full power to make law resulting in the "Church (religion) and State" being fully joined in an evil way.
- B. As the image speaks it will establish new legislation that legalizes murder of all who refuse to worship the Antichrist. They will be seen as enemies of the state. The nations will see the image establishing laws in a supernatural way and thus, will conclude that these laws are from God.
- C. "As many as" refers to those who are captured. Many who refuse to worship the Antichrist will be out of the reach of the False Prophet as they hide and as God supernaturally protects them (Rev. 12:6, 14, 16).

VIII. MARK OF THE BEAST: ECONOMIC SANCTIONS (REV. 13:16-17)

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name. (Rev. 13:16-17)

- A. The False Prophet will cause all to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead so as to make it obvious to all (Rev. 13:8; 17:8; 14:9-12; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4). Thus, this mark will force one to declare their true position with the Antichrist publicly and on a daily basis. Those will take the mark who become demonized and reprobate.
- B. To refuse the mark will result in being cut off from all life support systems in society. No one will be able to buy or sell (food, gas, electricity, do business, etc.) without this mark. It will be essential for economic survival. The Church will thrive in this time as God releases miracles.
- C. The False Prophet will cause all the small and great (military status; Rev. 6:15; 19:18), rich and poor (economic status) and free and slave (social status) to receive the Antichrist's mark.
- D. The False Prophet will be a very skillful administrator and an economic strategist. He will have absolute loyalty to the Antichrist and his agenda. The False Prophet is the strict enforcer of the mark of the Beast economic system. He will have great zeal, intelligence, and credibility along with the political authority to follow through (Rev. 13:11).

IX. GOD WILL HELP HIS PEOPLE

- A. The False Prophet will surely be defeated and manifest as false as he is sent to the Lake of Fire.
20 The Beast was captured, and with him the False Prophet...these two were cast alive into the Lake of Fire burning with brimstone. (Rev. 19:20)
- B. God will supernaturally deliver His people in the wilderness (Ezek. 20:35; Rev 12:13-17).
I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness...before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 32 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls. (Joel 2:30-32)
- C. God will expose the False Prophet's deception in his use of the mark to those who seek wisdom.
18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the Beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666. (Rev. 13:18)
- D. By the prophetic Scriptures, God has already informed His people of the deceptive nature of the image and the mark with its 666 economic system and the Antichrist's mortal head wound, etc. God will send Elijah, the Two Witnesses, the Rev. 10 messengers along with a global outpouring of the Spirit which includes the true prophetic anointing (Acts 2:17-21).