

The Rise of the False Prophet

Revelation 13:8-18

I. Introduction:

A. Context Review

1. Chapter 13 is parenthetical chapter, meaning it doesn't advance chronology of events transpiring in tribulation, but rather fills in details about the events that will transpire.
2. Antichrist: 1st part of the chapter tells how antichrist will rise to power in tribulation.
3. Facts thus far about this man who comes to power in that seven-year period:
 - a. He'll be demonically influenced & empowered.
 - b. Revive Old Roman empire: He builds nation coalition. It'll expand old Roman Empire
 - c. A fatal wound: He'll suffer an apparent fatal wound & miraculously recover.
 - d. Ultimate blasphemer: He'll enter temple in Jerusalem demanding worshipped as god.
 - e. He will terrorize the saints. Antichrist will kill anyone professing faith in true God.

II. Worshippers of antichrist (Revelation 13:8-10)

A. Those who will worship antichrist

1. Those who'll worship antichrist are ID'ed: Their names aren't written in Book of Life.
2. It's book in heaven where the names of all who're saved by faith in Jesus are recorded.
3. Those who refuse to believe on Jesus are lost & their names aren't in the Book of Life.
4. The lost of the tribulation period will believe Satan's lies & they'll worship antichrist.
5. Books in Heaven: Other books in heaven contain record of sins of those denying Jesus.
6. From these books of recorded sins, the lost will be judged, by God at the Great White Throne judgment, with the Book of Life as evidence that they were never saved.
7. Good News: The saved have their names in the Book of Life & their sins expunged.

B. If anyone has an ear to hear

1. Word of warning: Today is the day of salvation, there may not be a tomorrow.

III. The false prophet (Revelation 13:11)

A. Another beast

1. The word "another" is *allos* meaning another of the same kind.
2. This is another demon possessed man who will come to power alongside the antichrist.
3. This man will be evil and bent against God, just like the antichrist.

B. Differences in the beast & false prophet

(1) – Came up out of the earth

- a. Antichrist arises out of the tumultuous sea & false prophet from out of the earth.
- b. He's less overpowering, more subtle & persuasive from a gentle perspective.

(2) – Horns like a lamb

- a. A lamb is in great contrast to the ferocious beasts that describes the antichrist.
- b. The false prophet will be the ultimate religious deceiver.
- c. There have always been false prophets, but none as deceptive as this man will be.
- d. He will be the religious partner to the antichrist's political & military domination.
- e. He will seek to establish a one-world religion leading in the worship of antichrist.

(3) – Spoke like a dragon

- a. The dragon is Satan & the false prophet will be his mouthpiece in the world.

- b. He will lure people into adoration of the Antichrist convincing people to follow him
- c. Deadly Deception: Biblically, false prophets are considered deadly deceivers.

C. Biblical characteristics of false prophets:

(1) False teaching (**Matthew 24:11**)

- a. False teaching is often subtle, mixed with just enough truth to cause confusion.
- b. Jesus said as time draws near for His return, number of false teachers will increase

(2) Greedy (**2 Peter 2:15**)

- a. They're often in the ministry for gain & guilty of taking advantage of God's flock.

(3) Self-deceived (**Ezek. 13:2-3**)

- a. They deceive themselves into thinking they're important & knowledgeable.
- b. They lie to themselves about the truth & actually believe their own false teaching.

D. False teachers abound today.

1. Application: How are we to know false teachers from the true?
2. Bereans heard preaching & went to the Bible themselves for validation. (**Acts 17:11**)
3. True teaching is process of saying what God has said & making it understandable.

IV. Power of the false prophet (Revelation 13:12-14**)**

A. Same demonic power

1. This demon possessed false prophet exercises the same kind of power as the antichrist.
2. He'll be the religious leg of this unholy trinity: Satan, antichrist, and the false prophet.

B. Promote worship of antichrist

1. The false prophet will promote the worship of the antichrist by sensationalizing that he was apparently wounded to death and has fully recovered.
2. He will use this false resurrection to exalt and increase his renown.

C. Making fire come down from heaven.

1. The false prophet will imitate the two witnesses of God.
2. God will have 2 witnesses who can call down fire consuming anyone who'd harm them
3. God will allow Satan to empower this man so he can imitate the 2 witnesses.
4. Deception: The purpose for these "miracles" is deception.
5. Having rejected the truth of the Gospel, God will give them over to believe the lie of this false prophet. Paul foretold this day. See (**1 Thess. 2:9-12**).
6. Rejecting the truth always makes one vulnerable to a lie.

V. The image (Revelation 13:15-18**)**

A. Idolatry

1. The false prophet will build an image of the antichrist & appear to give it life.
2. This will be the ultimate deception as the masses in the world will worship this animated image, they will worship antichrist.

B. Absolute control

1. – He will kill anyone who will not worship him.
 - a. Anyone who believes on Jesus will be killed for their faith
 - b. Some true believers survive to the end of the tribulation, but many will be martyred.
2. – The mark of the beast
 - a. The number or the name on every person.
 - b. Notice there will be none living in society without this mark.
 - c. The antichrist will control the world's population in an unimaginative way.