

## The False Prophet (Message #30)

Revelation 13: 11-15

As we begin tonight, I want to remind you that Satan is a master deceiver. He has the ability to counterfeit the actions of God. In these days of Tribulation, Satan will produce a counterfeit of the Holy Trinity.

We have looked at the dragon and the Antichrist, the 1<sup>st</sup> two of Satan's hellish trinity. Tonight we will consider the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final member, the False Prophet. He will be the minister of propaganda for Antichrist and his worldwide movement of deception. He will lead the world in worship of the Antichrist, and ultimately, Satan. Let's see what the Bible reveals about the beast from the earth, [the False Prophet](#).

**I. The Manifestation of the False Prophet (11-12a)** – [And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him.](#)

**A. His Association (11a)** – John describes [another beast coming up out of the earth](#). The word [another](#) comes from the Greek word *allos* and means another of the same kind. He is of the same nature and demonic influence as Antichrist. He will bring about the fulfillment of Satan's unholy trinity.

- The False Prophet isn't on a mission to promote himself, but Satan's wicked plan of deception to enlarge the depths of hell. Satan wants men in hell with him.

**B. His Appearance (11b)** – He is described as having [two horns like a lamb](#). As we've already learned, horns are symbolic of power. The False Prophet will possess great power to influence men. If you remember, Antichrist had 10 horns and 10 crowns. The False Prophet has no crowns.

- His work and authority isn't political; his is a work of religious deception. Two is the number of testimony, referring to his testimony of deception. He is seen as a lamb, perceived as a gentle, harmless man of devout religious origin.

- He won't appear as a dreadful tyrant, but rather a charming, charismatic evangelist. The masses of humanity will follow this "preacher" of deception. We will deal with his ministry in a few moments.

**C. His Actuality (11c-12a)** – Men will look upon the False Prophet as the greatest religious leader the world has ever known. Outwardly he will have the charm to draw and deceive the masses, but inwardly he is filled with evil and the sinfulness of his master, Satan.

- **He will speak as a dragon and exercise all the power of Antichrist.** The world will quickly be taken in by his charm, but his true colors cannot be hidden. **Mt.12:34 – O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.** That which lies within the heart will eventually be revealed by the mouth.
- That ought to challenge us this evening. We can put on an outward show of religion, but eventually our hearts will be revealed. This world isn't fooled by a show of religion. They are seeking something that is real and they know who we really are. Those who visit our church will soon find us out. I want a heart that is right so I can show forth that which is right!
- The False Prophet may appear as a harmless lamb, but he is actually a dragon in sheep's clothing. We need to be mindful of this tactic in our day. Listen to the message men preach rather than being taken in by their charm and the crowds they draw. Every preacher who carries a Bible isn't God's man. If they don't preach Jesus as the only way of salvation, turn them off. If they don't preach His death, burial, and resurrection, don't believe their message! Men in that day will be deceived, but we need to be wise to Satan's tactics.

## **I. The Manifestation of the False Prophet (11-12a)**

### **II. The Motive of the False Prophet**

**A. He is a Promoter of Antichrist (12b)** – **And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.** This will be the goal and driving force for the False Prophet, to promote the Anti-christ. He will preach that Antichrist is a god and worthy of men's worship. He will unite the world under a common banner of religion, that of worshipping Antichrist and Satan. People of all walks of life and religious backgrounds will believe his deceitful message and worship the Antichrist.

- You might think is incomprehensible. Why would men do such a thing? Do you realize that the problem America faces today in regard to terrorism is a religious problem? We aren't hated for our democracy or wealth, but because we are Christians. There is a call for the world to unite in a banner of religious tolerance and universal acceptance. The False Prophet will bring this to fruition. The stage is being set right now.
- The modern "ecumenical movement" began in 1910 at a mission's conference in hopes of "uniting" all Christians. We need to stand up for what we believe! I am proud to say that I am

a\_Baptist because I agree with Baptist doctrine! The preacher or church that stands firmly on the fundamentals of the Bible is labeled a bigot or hatemonger. We have even been placed in the same ranks as the 9-11 terrorist. They say we are a hindrance to Christian “progress.”

- We cannot tear down and remove all the barriers of truth that separate us from this world and conform to their ideas! I’m not concerned whether the Pope or the arch bishop of some parish is pleased with my doctrine. I’m concerned with pleasing the Lord and standing upon His Word! We cannot and must not compromise truth to be accepted into this modern universal religious movement. If we abandon the truths of Christ’s virgin birth, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection, and His literal return for the church, then we no longer have Christianity.

- By the way all religions and all gods are not the same. There is only one way to heaven and that is by and through the blood of Christ. If that makes me a bigot then so be it! I choose to believe the Bible rather than men who desire to have the praise and acceptance of this world!

**B. He is a Seducer of Men** (14a) – *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; As the False Prophet promotes Antichrist he will deceive men to believe a lie. Mat.24:24 – For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 1 Tim.4:1-2 – Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron. He will bring such deception through his message and works of deceit that men will be drawn into his religion of eternal damnation!*

**C. He is a Murderer of Believers** (15b) – *And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. Once again we see the slaughter of those who won’t bow to Satan and his Antichrist. For those who reject the False Prophet’s message, death will be certain.*

- I’m glad to know that I’ve been saved. For those who’ve heard the gospel message, there won’t be a chance in Tribulation. But, if there was a chance, death would be the consequence. Aren’t you glad that we live in a day of grace? Aren’t you glad that we’ll be caught up, worshipping the Lord during the Tribulation? If I wasn’t sure I was saved, I’d get that settled tonight. You don’t want to face tribulation and be cast into an eternal hell.

## **I. The Manifestation of the False Prophet** (11-12a)

### **II. The Motive of the False Prophet**

**III. The Miracles of the False Prophet** – He will be a man of many miracles. This will be his tool to deceive the hearts of men. Notice:

**A. They are Counterfeits** (13) – *And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.* He will work wonders, whether real or mere illusions we don't know, but they will draw men to him. These miracles will be counterfeits and copies of those performed by God's servants. Remember the 2 witnesses performed miracles and the world hated them and rejoiced at their deaths.

- Elijah called down fire from heaven and the people worshipped God. The False Prophet will call down fire and the people will worship Satan and his superman. Can you see how Satan will use these miracles to deceive men? He will likely remind them of [1 Kings 18](#) and the story of Elijah. He will plant seeds that these miracles are of God. We must always be wary of Satan's counterfeits. The world is full of them now. Much that is labeled Christian is a counterfeit!

**B. They are Convincing** (14a) – *And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast;* He will deceive men. The word *deceiveth* means "to go astray, to wander, or roam about." It has the idea of "being lead away from truth and into error." Men will see these miracles and believe in them, being lead away from truth and into deception.

- Our world is ripe for this today. So called miracles bring masses of people to see the great wonder. Consider the crowds that the faith healers bring in. (Why aren't they walking the hospital halls?)

- Do you remember the stir that was created when Mary's image appeared on a plate glass window? Somewhere in Asia, people flocked to Hindu statues that appeared to be drinking milk when offered by bystanders. Satan and his unholy trinity will produce miracles that will deceive the world.

**C. They are Controlling** (14b) – *saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.* People will be so taken in by the False Prophet that they will heed his beck and call. Mankind will be unable to think for themselves, but rather submit completely to the influence of Satan's evil plan.

- This isn't hard to imagine. Children right now are being brain-washed to rise up against "infidel" Christians. Satan will control them!

**D. They are Confounding** (15) – [And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.](#) The False Prophet will have the ability to perform miracles that seem to be beyond human reasoning and explanation. This isn't beyond reason with the advancements in robotics and virtual reality graphics available today. They will assume that anyone who could do such things is worthy to be followed and worshiped.

- Remember that the Holy Spirit won't be here to speak to men's hearts and provide discernment. What a dreadful time for those who have been left to believe a lie. They will be deceived by the hand of Satan. They will reject the true and living God for Satan's counterfeits. They will bow and worship him, bound in their sin and hopelessness, destined for eternity in hell. This will be a tragic time for millions left without God.

The events that I've tried to preach about are hard to comprehend. It's hard to imagine the level of deception that men will face. There is hope for us tonight. The time to make preparations to avoid this awful time is now.

If you are lost, why not come and put your faith and trust in Christ Jesus the Lord? Christian we need a burden for those around us who are lost. If the trumpet were to sound today, they would be left to face this dreadful time. I encourage you to pray for those who aren't ready.