

## *The False Prophet*

*Revelation 13:11-18*

*"After the Antichrist is assassinated and comes back to life, the false prophet will erect a statue and bring it to life, thus inaugurating the period when every person will either accept the "mark" or die. It will become a capital crime to refuse to participate in the universal worship of the beast. While at the present period in history it seems unthinkable that such a state of affairs could occur, we must remember that we are only seventy years removed from the rise of Hitler and Stalin, and it is pure arrogance to think something similar could not happen again. If anyone could solve the terrorist crisis, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the unrest in Africa and bring peace to our troubled world, people would rush to worship such a person." Grant Osborne*

I. What occurs in the book of Revelation will literally take place because God says it will. It is given to not only warn man that judgement is coming, but to also make believers aware that all the evil we see and experience will not only reach a climax but will in turn be dealt with and eliminated by Christ himself. That fact alone should move us to rejoice in the Lord always. This world, as we know it, will never be free from the evil that exists. God is the only one who has the power to eliminate it. He is the only one who can take away all unrighteousness and its insidious rotten fruit. It is impossible for the church or man to do so. The true church does not have the power or influence to bring about worldwide peace and righteousness. If that were the case, then what occurs in the book of Revelation would be unnecessary.

Zech. 8:1-7

Rom. 8:28-29

2 Cor. 3:18

Phil. 4:4

Zech. 8:16-17

1 Thess. 5:8-10

*In 1 Thes. 1:10 Paul wrote that Jesus would rescue us from the coming wrath. The Greek word for rescue in the verse means to deliver or draw to oneself. The word for from denotes a separation of time and distance. So the Lord will draw us to Himself to distance us from the time and place of the wrath to come. In 1 Thes. 5:9 he said the Church was not appointed to suffer wrath. In Rev. 3:10 the Lord promised to keep us from the "hour of trial" that's coming upon the whole world. [gracethrufaith.com](http://gracethrufaith.com)*

II. There will be three powerful demonic forces at work during the Great Tribulation whose sole purpose will be to deceive mankind into willingly obeying whatever is required of them. Freedom to live as one pleases will no longer exist. Religious freedom will no longer exist. Economic freedom will no longer exist. Every aspect of one's life will be brought under the authority of the unholy trinity, which consists of the *red dragon (Satan), the first beast (the Antichrist) and the second beast (the false prophet)*. They will spare no one in their quest to control the world. The false prophet's primary goal is to make (**poieō**) man worship the Antichrist with undivided devotion and adoration. He'll be given whatever power necessary to convince those who dwell on the earth that he is the one and only true god.

Rev. 13:11-12

Matt. 4:8-10

Rev. 16:13

Matt. 7:15

Matt. 24:9-10

2 Thess. 2:8-12

Mark 13:22

**poieō** – to make one do something, cause one to

*“With the dragon, the beast rising from the sea, and the beast rising from the land we have an unholy trinity. The dragon is the anti-Father, the beast rising from the sea is the anti-Christ, and the beast rising from the land is the anti-Holy Spirit.” Guzik*

III. The False Prophet's deception leads to having complete control over mankind. They will either willingly obey him, or they will be forced to obey him, they have no choice. God, on the other hand, never deceives and he never controls. Man has free will to either obey or disobey him with seemingly little consequence in this life, other than perhaps the effects of living a sinful lifestyle. That changes during the tribulation. The choice of having a nominal faith or being a carnal believer no longer exists. A half-hearted commitment to Christ or the raising of the hand to get saved without any serious intent of living for him is not an option. It will be, either I believe the gospel and worship Christ knowing that it could lead to sure death, or I believe the Antichrist and worship him. ***It's an either-or proposition with no turning back.***

Rev. 13:14-18

Rom. 10:9-10

Rev. 14:9-10

***Eph. 1:13-14*** *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise, 14 who is a first installment of our inheritance, in regard to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*