

"The Significant Characters of the Tribulation"

Part 8

Revelation 12-14

Introduction: In our study of Revelation we have been looking at the Significant Characters of the Tribulation that are mentioned in chapters 12-14. So far, we have looked at Israel, Satan, Jesus Christ, The Anti-Christ and the Earth Dwellers. Today as we return to chapter 13 we meet another individual.

The False Prophet

As we approach the verses which speak of the False Prophet we see several interesting points concerning this individual.

1. His Character

Notice Revelation 13:11

He comes up out of the earth and this can mean that he is a Jew but we cannot be dogmatic about that. There are however several things in this verse that we can know for sure. He has two horns LIKE A LAMB and he speaks as a DRAGON or SERPENT.

The HORNS in the Bible speak of power. In chapter 5 when we saw Jesus in heaven we seen that He was said to have 7 HORNS.

Revelation 5:6

*⁶ And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, **having seven horns** and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.*

The number 7 speaks of perfection or completion. The Power of Jesus Christ is perfect and complete.

This second Beast of Revelation 13 has only 2 HORNS and the number 2 speaks of WITNESS in the Bible. The idea here that he will be a witness that will testify of the first Beast of Revelation 13 and he will be a powerful witness. This we shall see as we move on through this chapter.

The fact that he will speak as a DRAGON which means "as a SERPENT", points to the deception of his words. There is a connection between the character of the False Prophet and the Serpent in Genesis 3.

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

² And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

³ But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

⁴ And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Satan caused Eve to question the Word of God, he lied and he convinced her that God was keeping something from her by not allowing her to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of God and Evil. The False Prophet will also be very deceptive in what he says. His words will be in opposition to the Word of God.

Let us remember what Jesus said concerning the 7 years of Tribulation on the earth.

Matthew 24:11-12

¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

¹² And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Let us also remember what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-7

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

Once the Restrainer is removed the demonic spirits will be free to possess people and bring about lawlessness and deception.

Notice Revelation 13:12

This man will exercise all the power which the Anti-Christ exercises and with his power he will cause the Earth Dwellers to worship the Anti-Christ whose deadly wound was healed. There are several points I want you to see here.

- a. **Satan is a counterfeiter and the False Prophet will complete the Satanic Trinity.**

The Holy Trinity consists of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Satanic Trinity will consist of Satan, the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet.

This False Prophet will play the part of the Holy Spirit in the Satanic Trinity. Let me remind you of what Jesus said concerning the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13-14

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

¹⁴ **He shall glorify me:** for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ with all He does. In the same way the False Prophet will glorify the Anti-Christ in all he says and does.

Now, there is something else here that I want you to notice.

- b. **The False Prophet will not accept worship for himself.**

This is so unlike EVIL. The sin nature in every man has the desire to gain applause and attention but this man will use his power and his words to point people to the Anti-Christ. Let me show you why he does this.

Revelation 13:12, 14

*¹² 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.*

*¹⁴ 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**; 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.*

The words that are underlined and bolded literally mean that the False Prophet is kept under the close watch of the Anti-Christ. Evil cannot trust evil and so he will stay right by the side of the Anti-Christ. Let us remember that the Anti-Christ will be indwelt by Satan so to worship the Anti-Christ is to worship Satan.

Notice Revelation 13:4

The Earth Dwellers will worship Satan because as they worship the Beast it will be one and the same.

Many will accept this False Prophet because of what is said in the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 18:15-18

¹⁵ The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

¹⁶ According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

¹⁷ And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

¹⁸ I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

This text is referring to Jesus Christ but Satan will twist the Scriptures to point to the False Prophet who will point to the Anti-Christ. The False Prophet will proclaim to the Jews that the Anti-Christ is the Messiah which God had promised and because they did not believe Jesus was the Messiah they will be quick to bow to Satan's Masterpiece.

2. His Power

Notice Revelation 13:13

False Prophet will do great wonders and he will even cause fire to fall from heaven in the sight of men. Let me show you what Paul wrote concerning the power of the Anti-Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

⁹ *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan **with all power and signs and lying wonders,***

¹⁰ *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

This is describing the Anti-Christ and here in Revelation 13 we are told the False Prophet will have the same power.

Let us notice the results.

Notice Revelation 13:14a

It will be through the miracles which the False Prophet performs that he will deceive the Earth Dwellers. The people who are deceived will accept SIGNS as proof of Truth. I am reminded of what Matthew recorded about the Jews of Jesus day.

Matthew 16:1

The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

The Jews were looking for SIGNS and it will be no different in the Tribulation period. Many will follow the Anti-Christ because of the miraculous signs. They will ignore the Scriptures by doing this.

Deuteronomy 13:1-4

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

² *And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;*

³ *Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

⁴ *Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.*

Application:

Let me just remind you that SIGNS are NOT reliable indicators of God at work.

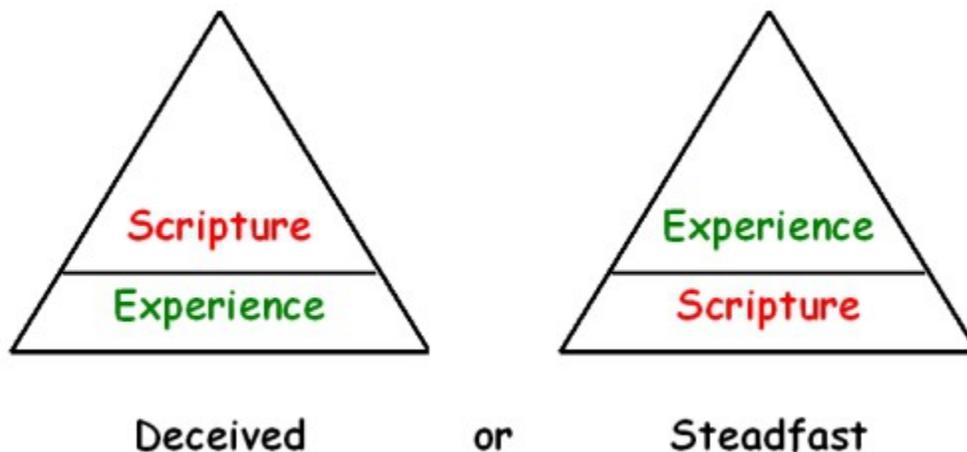
Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

²² *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

²³ *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

It is so very important that we learn to rest upon the foundation of God's Word and not on the foundation of experience. Let me show you a diagram.



Satan is a counterfeiter and he will cause people to have certain experiences to lead them into deception. Therefore, it is vitally important that we hold tightly to the Scriptures no matter what the experience is and no matter who claims to have the experience. If it is contrary to the Word of God then we can be sure it is not of God.

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

³ And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Let me remind you of Paul's warning to the church at Corinth.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Conclusion:

This is exactly why it is so important to learn the Word of God. Without the foundation of the Word of God you are susceptible to the lies of Satan.

Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;