

## The Book Of Revelation Study 68

*Revelation 13:11-18 (NKJV)*

<sup>11</sup> *Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.*

<sup>12</sup> *And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

<sup>13</sup> *He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.*

<sup>14</sup> *And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.*

<sup>15</sup> *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.*

<sup>16</sup> *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,*

<sup>17</sup> *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.*

<sup>18</sup> *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.*

We have learned by now that the major weapon in Satan's arsenal is deception.

Satan, Jesus declared, is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44), who disguises himself as an angel of light (2Cor 11:14), to deceive people.

From his first appearance on earth in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:2-6) until his final appearance at the end of the Millennium (Rev 20:7-8), Satan is a liar and a deceiver.

He constantly seeks to confuse people, blinding the minds of the unbelievers so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2Cor 4:4)

Since Satan is a deceiver, it follows that his agents (both human and demonic) are also deceivers.

The Apostle Paul warned that;

*2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NKJV)*

<sup>13</sup> *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.*

<sup>14</sup> *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*

<sup>15</sup> *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*

Also in his writing to Timothy;

*1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,*

The bible repeatedly warns of the danger of false prophets.

Moses paused in the midst of giving God's law to Israel to warn of those who would lead people astray from it:

*Deuteronomy 13:1-5 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> *"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,  
<sup>2</sup> and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'--  
which you have not known--'and let us serve them,'  
<sup>3</sup> you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is  
testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.  
<sup>4</sup> You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice,  
and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.  
<sup>5</sup> But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn  
you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the  
house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you  
shall put away the evil from your midst.*

Jeremiah also warned Israel not to listen to false prophets;

*Jeremiah 23:16 (NKJV)*

<sup>16</sup> *Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make  
you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD.*

*Jeremiah 23:21-22 (NKJV)*

<sup>21</sup> *"I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.  
<sup>22</sup> But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have  
turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings.*

*Jeremiah 23:25-32 (NKJV)*

<sup>25</sup> *"I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have  
dreamed!'  
<sup>26</sup> How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit  
of their own heart,  
<sup>27</sup> who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their  
fathers forgot My name for Baal.  
<sup>28</sup> "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word  
faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD.  
<sup>29</sup> "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?  
<sup>30</sup> "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who steal My words every one from his  
neighbor.  
<sup>31</sup> Behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who use their tongues and say, 'He says.'  
<sup>32</sup> Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the LORD, "and tell them, and cause My  
people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they  
shall not profit this people at all," says the LORD.*

As our Lord concluded the Sermon on the Mount, He solemnly warned His listeners;

*Matthew 7:15 (NKJV)*

<sup>15</sup> *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*

In his second epistle, Peter wrote;

**2 Peter 2:1 (NKJV)**

***<sup>1</sup> But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.***

The Apostle John cautioned;

**1 John 4:1 (NKJV)**

***<sup>1</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.***

Scripture also records numerous examples of false prophets both named and unnamed.

Jeremiah encounters Hananiah, and Ahab and Zedekiah and Shemaiah, and Noadiah and then the most notorious false prophet in the Old Testament was Balaam.

All of these trying to lead Israel astray.

There were others unnamed, both prophets and prophetesses.

Even in the book of Acts in the New Testament we find Paul encounters another false prophet named, Bar-Jesus.

There are several vices characterizing false prophets beyond the most obvious one of speaking and teaching lies. Scripture denounces them as evil and wicked, adulterers, greedy, self deceived, and idolaters.

Not surprisingly, God will judge them severely.

**Deuteronomy 18:20 (NKJV)**

***<sup>20</sup> But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'***

**2 Peter 2:12-13 (NKJV)**

***<sup>12</sup> But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,***

***<sup>13</sup> and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you,***

**2 Peter 2:17 (NKJV)**

***<sup>17</sup> These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.***

False prophets have plagued God's people from the beginning of history. But they will proliferate even more as the return of Christ to establish His kingdom approaches.

Speaking of that time Jesus said;

**Matthew 24:11 (NKJV)**

***<sup>11</sup> Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.***

And they will be persuasive so as to show;

*Mark 13:22 (NKJV)*

*<sup>22</sup> For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

Just as the false christs who have plagued mankind will culminate in the final Antichrist, so also will the false prophets culminate in a final false prophet.

He will be Satan's last and final and most powerful lying deceiver.

Along with Satan, the counterfeit of the Father,  
And Antichrist, the counterfeit of Jesus Christ,  
The false prophet will form the satanic false trinity.

He will be the counterfeit of the Holy Spirit.

The false prophet will be Antichrist's partner in Satan's massive final deception of the world.

While Antichrist will be primarily a political and military ruler, he will also claim to be God. The false prophet will be his high priest, the religious leader who will lead people into the satanic religion of worshipping Antichrist.

The false prophet will deify Antichrist and convince unbelievers that he is the only hope for the world's salvation.

One of the reasons he will be so effective is that the power of religion over man's mind is so great.

In other words people are incurable worshipers; everyone worships someone, whether the true God, false gods, or themselves.

There is in the heart of man the longing for someone transcendent, someone beyond himself that can deliver him from his troubling circumstances.

The terrifying, unparalleled events of the Tribulation will intensify that longing for a supernatural deliverer.

The false prophet will convince the unbelieving world that Antichrist is the solution to the world's pressing problems.

He may well be the most eloquent, powerful, convincing speaker in human history, and his lofty oratory will persuade the world to worship Antichrist.

*John Phillips speculated:*

*The dynamic appeal of the false prophet will lie in his skill in combining political expediency with religious passion.*

*His arguments will be subtle, convincing, and appealing. His oratory will be hypnotic, for he will be able to move the masses to tears or whip them into a frenzy.*

*He will control the communication media of the world and will skillfully organize mass publicity to promote his ends.*

*He will manage the truth with guile beyond words, bending it twisting it, and distorting it.*

*He will mold world thought and shape human opinion like so much potter's clay. (exploring revelation, rev. ed. [Chicago: Moody, 1987; reprint, Neptune, N.J. Loizeaux, 1991, 171)*

The partnership between political and religious power exhibited by Antichrist and the false prophet will not be new.

Jannes and Jambres, two false religious leaders assisted Pharaoh in his confrontations with Moses and Aaron

**2 Timothy 3:8 (NKJV)**

***<sup>8</sup> Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;***

Balak, king of Moab, sought the false prophet Balaam's help to destroy Israel;

***(Numbers chapter 22 to 24)***

Ahab and Jezebel used the idolatrous priests of Baal to help them accomplish their evil purposes in Israel

**1 Kings 18:21-22 (NKJV)**

***<sup>21</sup> And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.***

***<sup>22</sup> Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.***

The Roman empire united political and religious power by demanding that its subjects worship the state, (personified as the goddess Roma) and the emperor.

In modern times, communism, though officially scorning religion as the "opium of the people," has in effect been a substitute religion for its adherents.

The worldwide joining of political and religious power in the end times is detailed in Revelation 17  
For a time, the two powers will coexist;

**Revelation 17:1-9 (NKJV)**

***<sup>1</sup> Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,***

***<sup>2</sup> with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."***

***<sup>3</sup> So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.***

***<sup>4</sup> The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.***

***<sup>5</sup> And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.***

***<sup>6</sup> I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.***

***<sup>7</sup> But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.***

***<sup>8</sup> The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the***

*foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

*<sup>9</sup> Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.*

Eventually however, Antichrist will destroy the false religious system and institute the worship of himself

*Revelation 17:15-17 (NKJV)*

*<sup>15</sup> Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.*

*<sup>16</sup> And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.*

*<sup>17</sup> For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.*

Now this will happen at the midpoint of the Tribulation, when Antichrist sets up the abomination of desolation

*Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)*

*<sup>27</sup> Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

*Daniel 11:31 (NKJV)*

*<sup>31</sup> And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.*

*Daniel 12:11 (NKJV)*

*<sup>11</sup> And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

Having reached the pinnacle of his power, Antichrist will destroy all other religions.

The worship of Antichrist, fomented by the false prophet, will become the only religion tolerated

However, there is great judgment coming down upon those who follow and worship the beast. God's judgment fierce and complete.

*Revelation 14:9 (NKJV)*

*<sup>9</sup> Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,*

*Revelation 14:11 (NKJV)*

*<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."*

*Revelation 15:2 (NKJV)*

*<sup>2</sup> And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.*

*Revelation 16:2 (NKJV)*

*<sup>2</sup> So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.*

*Revelation 19:20 (NKJV)*

*<sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which*

*he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

*Revelation 20:4 (NKJV)*

*<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

Following this progression we see that victory is in Jesus.

The destruction of Satan's stronghold and system setup through his man Antichrist empowered by him through the second beast will be final and complete.

When we come back to study again we will begin to look at the three key elements revealed by John's vision of the false prophet.

**His person,**

**His power,**

**His program.**