

DAY 42: THE FALSE PROPHET, THE GREAT DECEPTION, AND THE APOSTASY

I. THE DRAGON, THE BEAST, AND THE FALSE PROPHET

- A. The beast in [Revelation 13](#) is referring more to the individual than an empire
- B. This beast looks like a lamb but speaks like a dragon, or Satan ([Revelation 13:11](#))
- C. The beast is later taken captive alongside the false prophet ([Revelation 19:19-21](#))
- D. Jesus is described as “one like a slaughtered lamb” ([Revelation 5:6](#))
- E. The false prophet is disguised as a lamb with two horns
- F. Jesus warns against false prophets dressed in sheep’s clothing ([Matthew 7:15](#))
- G. The Dragon, The Beast, and The False Prophet form a sort of false-trinity
 - 1. The Dragon is Satan, he wants to be worshipped as though he is God
 - 2. The Beast, the Antichrist, functions as the incarnation on the Earth
 - 3. The False Prophet sort of represents the Holy Spirit
- H. This is a pathetic copy of the true Trinity, but many will fall for it

II. THE FALSE PROPHET’S MINISTRY AT THE END OF THE AGE

- A. The False Prophet functions on behalf of the first beast, has the same authority ([Revelation 13:12](#))
- B. He compels the world to worship the first beast ([v. 12](#))
 - 1. The translation of the word “worship” could mean “bow down” or submit to, not necessarily to worship as God
- C. The False Prophet will perform great signs ([v. 13](#))
- D. Suffers a head wound (a fatal blow), as though to imitate Jesus’ fatal blow ([v. 14](#))
- E. The partnership of the first and second beast:
 - 1. The Antichrist seems to be more of the military leader
 - 2. The False Prophet is more of the religious leader

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III. THE FALSE PROPHET'S RELIGION

- A. It seems to make the most sense that the Antichrist and the False Prophet would hold the same belief system (Islam)
- B. However, the False Prophet could be Jewish or Christian (be open to possibilities)
- C. Could the False Prophet claim to be Jesus?
 - 1. Could be that he is a deceiver ([Matthew 24:4-5](#))
 - 2. Could be that he literally claims to be the Messiah ([Matthew 24:4-5](#))
- D. From an Islamic perspective, they believe that Jesus is coming back to fight an army of Satan, but it is a false-Jesus, a false-army
- E. The False Prophet may be more of a "Pharaoh's magician" type of figure

IV. DECEPTION AND APOSTASY

- A. Coming of the Lord and our being gathered to Him go together ([2 Thessalonians 2:1-12](#))
- B. Don't let anyone deceive you or tell you these things have already happened (v. 3)
- C. That day does not happen until the great falling away, the great apostasy (v. 3)
- D. A person's ability to identify truth depends on their willingness to be obedient in their hearts ([John 7:16-17](#))
- E. Consistency, endurance, patience wins the race
- F. Our willingness to say "yes" to the Lord and to be obedient is what allows us to not be deceived
- G. In comparison to our devotion and love for the Lord, it is as if we hate our loved ones ([Luke 14:25-27](#))
- H. Guard the issues of compromise in your heart so that you do not fall away