

REVELATION: Lesson 122

Chapter 13:11-18, The False Prophet: Leading People in the Ultimate Idolatry

20 November 2020

Vs 11 “I beheld another beast...” This other beast is the False Prophet (Revelation 16:13, and 19:20).

A COMMON PARTNERSHIP: A false religious leader supporting an ungodly political leader.

1. Pharaoh’s magicians gave a religious atmosphere to Pharaoh’s secular actions (Exodus 7).
2. Balak, the king of Moab, employed a false prophet named Balaam in an attempt to accomplish his political goals of getting rid of the nation of Israel (Numbers 22:5-6).
3. The tribe of Dan hired a Levite priest to put God’s “blessing” on their idolatrous ways (Judges 18).
4. Absalom usurped the throne of David using the counsel of Ahithophel the priest (2 Sam 15:12).
5. Jeroboam caused the people to sin by ordaining priests who would support him (2 Chron 7:14-15).
6. Ahab had 450 prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:22) to convince the people that God approved of sin.
7. About 400 prophets spoke positive (but false) words to Ahab (1 Kings 22, 2 Chron 18).
8. Roman Caesars had Roman Popes.
9. Medieval kings each had their Pontiffs.
10. Adolph Hitler was fully supported by the Vatican.

Christians ought to stay out of politics (Ps 94:20). We are concerned with eternal things, not temporal governments. We are not part of this world; we are citizens of heaven (Eph 2:6, Col 3:1-3).

JOHN 1:19-23 The Jews are looking for “the Christ,” “that prophet,” “Elias,” and a forerunner of Christ.

- Since they rejected Jesus Christ, they also rejected John, the true forerunner of Messiah.
- That means the Jews are still looking for all of these things since they rejected Jesus Christ and John the Baptist. They’ll accept the False Prophet as he prepares the way for the Antichrist.

❖ **How will the False Prophet convince the Jews that he is of God, the fulfilment of prophecy?”**

Vs 13 “Great wonders...he maketh fire come down from heaven.” He imitates what God did before:

1. Every Jew knows that God rained down fire and brimstone out of heaven upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:24).
2. Nadab and Abihu were priests who violated God’s word. The Jews know that God sent down fire from heaven and burnt them up (Lev 10:1-2).
3. Every Jew knows the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel. Fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice (1 Kings 18:38), but not for the false prophets of Baal.
4. When the False Prophet makes fire come down from heaven, the Jews will listen to him.

❖ **Why will God allow this deception?**

2 Thess 2:9-11 The Jews “received not the love of the truth” so “God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” God will give them what they want.



Vs 15 The False prophet “had power to give life to the image of the beast” that it should...speak.

Psalm 135:15-18

Idols have mouths, but they do not speak.

- The power that the False Prophet wields does not truly give life to an idol.
- This is some form of illusion or trickery, possibly employing a devil.
- Daniel’s “abomination of desolation” speaks of this idol in the Jewish temple.
 - Idols are referred to as abominations (1 Kings 11:5, 7).

Habakkuk 2:19

God said there is a “woe” connected with someone that can bring an idol to life (Rev 8:13, 12:12).

Idols enable sinful man to satisfy their need to worship God. Since their god is created in their own mind, he approves of all their sins.

Isaiah 44:9-20

This passage illustrates the vanity and foolishness of idolatry and the shame that shall come to all those who participate in it.

- The idolater finds it impossible to admit that they are wrong and that their religion is a lie (vs 20). They’re caught in the snare of the Devil and don’t know it (2 Tim 2:26).
 - God “commandeth all men every where to repent!” (Acts 17:30).
 - If you find that you are trusting anything other than the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation, you’d better open your eyes to the lie that you’ve been living, repent, and trust Jesus Christ.
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