

MASTERPIECE of DECEPTION

A counterfeit Messiah - A counterfeit Second Coming

Satan got the one thing he wanted most - to kill the Son of God. But his satisfaction was short lived, because the Father simply raised Christ from the grave (*Gal. 1:1, 1Pet. 1:3, Acts 3:15*). The second thing Satan wants is to steal souls from Christ. If he can bring the whole world to worship him, then maybe God will have to give up - and hand the world over to his rule. This won't happen either, but that won't stop him trying.

He will "deceive - if possible, the very elect" (*Matt. 24:24*). He will seek to deceive Israel - those in covenant - the LORD's "elect" - according to Isaiah 45:4. (The word "elect" means "chosen.") They are looking forward to the return of Messiah with longing, eager anticipation. How could Satan deceive them? Well - what about a counterfeit? Satan is master of the counterfeit. But how would he counterfeit the Second Coming? That would be huge!

Most believers - both Evangelical and Hebrew Root - expect that when Messiah returns in glory, He will immediately set up His kingdom on this earth. They believe that He will then rule for 1000 years of peace. But what if that is NOT CORRECT? What if Christ will NOT set up His Kingdom on earth until AFTER the 7th millennium? What if a Messiah figure does appear - a glorious, powerful being - who begins to rule the nations?

That would be the Antichrist, you're thinking. We would recognize him. Ok - but what if Satan placed a counterfeit Antichrist, so that he could show up to overthrow him?

Even the average "man on the street" knows that there will be "seven last plagues" at the end of this age, but not that many understand that the seven trumpet judgments come before the last seven "bowls of wrath." What if the trumpets are mistaken for the 7 last plagues, and then this "Messiah" figure appears?

The trumpets judgments are just like the seven last plagues, EXCEPT that the trumpets are limited in effect, to one third of everything: one third of the rivers, the trees, the sea, the sun, etc. The trumpet plagues are not universal, but they will be the worst disasters that the world has ever seen - up to that point.

*NOTE: The "third" part destroyed by each trumpet disaster gives us a clue. "The tail of the dragon (Satan) drew a third of the stars (angels) of heaven" (Rev. 12:4). **I believe that Satan will deceive men into believing that these trumpet events ARE the 7 last plagues** (seven bowl judgments). He will then appear - claiming to be Messiah. The Abomination of Desolation will "stand in the holy place," (*Matt. 24:15, 2 Thess. 2:3-4*) on holy ground - the Temple mount at Jerusalem. The LORD said, "You will see an enemy in My dwelling place" (*1 Sam. 2:32*).*

CURRENT TEACHING IS PREPARING THE WAY

Many are teaching - that the last bowl judgments are NOT UNIVERSAL, but are limited to “the land” - meaning “the land” of Israel. I believe this teaching is preparing the way for the great deception. In Revelation, the trumpet judgments effect only one third of the grass, trees, ocean, ships, rivers, atmosphere and human population. If this “one third” is the Middle East (including “the land” of Israel) then many believers will think that these judgments ARE the 7 last plagues. They have destroyed only “the land,” just as their teachers predicted.

“Four messengers” - “bound for [or at] the river Euphrates,” are released to “kill a **third of mankind**” (Rev. 9:14-15). Just about everyone on the planet is expecting a Middle East war. What if a humble, soft spoken (lamb like) and charismatic man were to “appear” - in a newly rebuilt Temple on the Mount - after the trumpet “plagues” ? What if he were to overthrow an evil dictator (maybe a Muslim)? What if he made “fire come down from heaven in the sight of men?” Would you believe in him?

Matthew 24:15-23 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes . . . For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it.”

Many are now teaching that the Antichrist will be an Islamic, and “the Beast” will be radical Islam. But what if this is the counterfeit Antichrist, which Satan will set up so that he can appear, as “Messiah,” to overthrow that “Beast?”

(See *Mideast Beast* by Joel Richardson, WND Books.)

A THIRD TEMPLE - REQUIRED

The Antichrist must “take away the daily *sacrifice*” in order to set up “the abomination that causes desolation” (Dan.11:31, Dan. 12:11, Dan. 9:27). This scenario requires a Temple, and the restoration of sacrifices. The “abomination of desolation” must “stand in the holy place” (Matt. 24:15). He must sit “as God **in the Temple of God**, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thess. 2:4). A THIRD Temple will be raised up on the mount in Jerusalem. It will be modeled after the Temple shown to Ezekiel in vision, but this will be a counterfeit! Ezekiel’s Temple is NOT raised up until the “whole house of Israel” is resurrected and returned to the land. I have tried to explain why this will NOT happen until **The 8th Day**.

NOTE: The word “sacrifice” was added to the text. It may not be talking about a “sacrifice” at all, but rather something which has been “continual.” Jerusalem is taken - and “given to the Nations” for “a time, times, and a part.” This may be the “continual” which is taken away. This event - of internationalizing the City of Jerusalem - may represent the taking away of “the daily.”

A COUNTERFEIT

To the Hindu - The 10th Great Avatar

To the Muslim - The Imam Mahdi

To the Jew - Messiah

To the Christian - Christ

To the Atheist - A Beneficent Alien

NOTE: UFO sightings have dramatically increased. Our Star Trek generation is prepared for the appearance of a beneficent alien. It will be easy for many to believe that he visited our planet two thousand years ago. He was crucified, but was beamed up to his star ship and revived. Now he has returned because the planet is on the verge of collapse and chaos.

The Beast power (an international authority) is “given authority over EVERY tribe, tongue, and nation. And **ALL who dwell on the earth WILL worship (serve) him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**” (Rev. 13:7-8, 16). The “false prophet” of Revelation 13:11-18, is a religious figure who will encourage all men to cooperate with the Beast system. The “false prophet” will prepare the way for the false “Messiah,” just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ. I believe the “false prophet” will make his headquarters at Jerusalem.

Only those who hear the Lamb speaking to them, will recognize this “Messiah” as the “abomination” because he will demand that they break the commandments of God. This is why the “saints” living during the time of “Babylon” and Antichrist are described as “those who keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12).

Do you suppose he will target the Sabbath - the heart of the Covenant ?

ARE YOU READY FOR SUCH A DECEPTION?

Satan will deceive the whole world. He will likely incite a counterfeit “Battle of Armageddon,” a Gog-Magog type battle for Jerusalem. Islamic forces along with Russia and perhaps others will attack Jerusalem, and may even rule from the Mount. In this attack the Dome on the Mount will be destroyed - leaving the way open for a third Temple. Satan may actually appear to “save” Jerusalem by making “fire come down from heaven.” When this Temple is completed (over 70 weeks) the “abomination of desolation will stand in the holy place.”

NOTE: I have heard teachers recently saying that the Gog-Magog Battle will take place BEFORE the Second Coming, but according to Revelation 20:8, that battle does not take place until AFTER the 7th millennium.

I believe that Satan will use the current nation of Israel as the focal point of his grand deception. Many believe that the present nation of Israel is the fulfillment of the promised return. They see Israel as “dry bones” brought back to life (Jer. 16:14-21, Jer. 23:3-8, Ezek. Chapter 37) - but the present nation of Israel does not fulfill the prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

The “return” of Jews to the land which became the modern nation of Israel following WWII, was not an event brought about by miracles which rivaled those of the first “exodus” from Egypt. We saw no plagues, no opening of a “red sea,” no water brought from a rock, no manna from heaven. We saw only a persecuted, war weary people fighting their way into a portion of the ancient homeland of their ancestors. The throne has not been restored to the Son of David. The lion does not lie down with the lamb. No. We must look to the future for a full and forever deliverance and return of the “whole house of Israel.” Up to this point, those Jews who admit to belief in Christ as Messiah are actually denied immigration. And what of the dead? Daniel was to receive his inheritance (*Dan. 12:13*) but there has been no resurrection.

Those who believe that Messiah will reign on earth, during the approaching 7th millennium -
those who believe that Messiah will rule the nations who survive the last plagues -
those who believe that the faithful today should go up to the (third) Temple at Jerusalem to worship
or to offer animal sacrifices -
ARE BEING SET UP!

The LORD is not there. He will not return to His Temple until it is fully consecrated at The 8th Day.

Please know that I do believe that Jews deserve to have a homeland. They have been persecuted and despised for almost two thousand years. It is right and appropriate that they be given at least some portion of their ancestral home.

I also know that most Jews living in Israel today are secular (non-believers). This has left them open to being used of Satan for his purpose of deception. His deception will be so perfect that ONLY those whose names are “written in the Lamb’s Book of Life,” who are illumined by the Spirit of Christ, will see through the deception and refuse to worship the Beast or to take his mark (*Revelation 13:7-8, 16*).

Many will die for the truth.

OUR HOME IS IN HEAVEN

I have heard various Messianic and Hebrew Roots teachers dismiss the idea that the redeemed will leave the earth during the 7th millennium. They say that Christ has gone to “prepare a place for us” only in the sense of our legal adoption into the family of God. But we are already adopted - “those who are of faith ARE sons of Abraham” (*Gal. 3:7*). I believe Yeshua has gone to prepare a literal place (*Jn 14:2-3*). It’s called “The Holy City.”

Hebrews 11:8-10 “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. . . . For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. KJV

Hebrews 12:22 “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect . . .”

1 Peter 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you . . .”

Colossians 1:4 “ . . . because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel . . .”

Philippians 3:20 “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ . . .”

Revelation 21:1-2 “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

NOTE: After Gog-Magog (Rev. 20:7-9) comes the “great white throne” judgment (Rev. 20:11-15). Following this last and final judgment, the heaven and earth are renewed (made new) (Rev. 21:1). Only then does John see the New Jerusalem descend to earth, from heaven.

NOTE: The bride of Christ is this Holy City (meaning every redeemed citizen of that city).

NOTE: There will be no Temple in that City, for God and the Lamb are the Temple there (Rev. 21:22). The Temple which Ezekiel saw, is destroyed in the Gog-Magog Battle. It is outside The City (Eze. 45:6). The area given for the New Jerusalem covers all of the territory promised to Abraham - and more. It will be 345 miles on each side and 345 miles high. I personally believe it will be a portal between earth and heaven.

**Our HOME is in Heaven.
We wait for our Savior to come for us.
He will take us to that City.**

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