



# **FALSE PROPHETS**



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By

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# **CHAPTER I**

## **FALSE PROPHETS**

Recently I sat at the breakfast table in a motel dining room in North Carolina with an amillennial brother in Christ. Being at opposite poles in our eschatological viewpoints, our conversation included a discussion of Revelation, chapter 20. We could not come to a mutual agreement on that passage of Scripture for the one reason that we held to different principles of interpretation. I literalized the chapter and my friend had vaporized it.

### **WHO HAS THE WORLD IN HIS HANDS?**

We talked at some length about those first three verses which tell us that Satan will be bound and incarcerated in the bottomless pit for one thousand years. He labored long and hard to convince me that those verses have no reference to the future, but that Satan is bound now and that God has the whole world in His hands. Though I believe strongly in the biblical doctrine of the sovereignty of God, I could not follow my friend's reasoning; it had no sound biblical basis.

Oh yes, he quoted Scripture containing the statements of Jesus where He said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:18) and "the prince of this world is judged" (John 16:11). But these words from our Lord are not telling us that Satan is bound *now*. In God's plan Satan is a defeated foe finally and ultimately, but his final overthrow is still future. Christ's death on the cross was one of the first steps in the defeat of Satan (Colossians 2:14,15). But there are yet future steps to be taken, when Satan is cast out of heaven into the earth (Revelation 12:10 cf. Luke 10:18), and after that when he is cast into the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:3), and finally when he is cast into the lake of fire forever (Revelation 20:10).



## SATAN'S PRESENT POSITION

Satan's position in relation to this present world system is stated in unmistakably clear language in the following verse: "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness" (1 John 5:19). Here the word *wickedness* (Gr. *poneros*) should read "the wicked one" as in 1 John 2:13, 14; 3:12 and 5:18. The idea that this present world-system is in Satan's control is no mere guess or conjecture, but an absolute certainty. Just as certainly as the Christian knows he belongs to God, he knows that the present state of affairs in this world-system is under Satan's dominion. The devil has the whole world system in his hands.

Three times the Lord Jesus referred to Satan as "the prince of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). If Satan is not the ruler over this reprobate world-system, Jesus never would have said that he is. Satan, not God, is the prime instrumental cause of all evil. God is sovereign and in perfect control of His universe, and His plan will ultimately prevail. But the final overthrow of the devil and his wicked system will not be realized before the return of Jesus Christ to earth.

## WHY MANY PEOPLE MISS THE TRUTH

Now it is expected of the unsaved that they might resent hearing this, and there is a reason for such negative reaction. The apostle Paul said, "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Corinthians 4:4). There is a veil of unbelief over the minds of the unsaved. This is not the fault of the Gospel nor of the messenger who carries the gospel. Paul said that *the god of this world* has blinded their minds. One of Satan's goals is to hold men in unbelief. He is the god of this world (age). He is not the god of creation and the created universe, but the unholy ruler of the ethics and morals and culture of this age. He it is who controls the minds of men and imbues them with the idea that wrong is right and right is wrong. God is not blinding their minds; He is not putting the veil over their eyes.

The *world* (or age) is the age extending to Christ's coming. Jesus and Paul and John are showing us the tremendous force of evil at work in the world attempting to defeat the Gospel. Those wicked powers are not in God's hands but in Satan's. What was apparent to the writers of Scripture is that Satan exercises power and dominion in this present world system.

Most people are blind to this fact, therefore they are blind to their pride, their ignorance, their anger, their covetousness, their jealousy, their greed. I am not surprised at the blind spots in people's moral and spiritual perception.

## CHRISTIANS WITH BLIND SPOTS

What does surprise me is the fact that many professing Christians, and even some Christians, have blind spots. They are unable to discern truth from error. They go along whistling in the dark that God has the whole world in His hands, therefore things can't be too bad. But conditions are bad, far worse than most of us know. Moreover the Bible makes it clear that there is no hope for improvement before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone who can't see that can't see.

## THE LORD JESUS CHRIST'S AMAZING PROPHECY

As Jesus was bringing to a close His famous Sermon on the Mount, He gave an amazing prophecy. He said, "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. 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? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Here are some of the most solemn and sobering words ever spoken. And yet, they are neglected and ignored by many. Why? Because they disturb us. They tell us of a day in the future when men shall face Jesus Christ and be judged. Here our Lord is quite blunt about that future judgment. And it is a terrifying thought that *many* will be in the company He is talking about. The future judgment will be a time of terrifying surprises for *many*, not merely a few odd persons.

Those of whom our Lord is speaking are not atheists, they are not irreligious, they are not insincere. They recognize who Jesus is. They are correct in their doctrine about Him, confessing that He is Lord. They say, "Lord, Lord". This shows that they are orthodox in what they believe about Jesus Christ. But the terrible and terrifying fact remains that they will not enter the kingdom of heaven. We know that they will not because Jesus said as much.

Now in order to be saved we must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31) and confess Him as Lord (Romans 10:9). Every true Christian will confess Jesus as Lord. Those who go into the kingdom will be those who believed it and said so. But the frightening thing which our Lord says is that not everyone who believes who Jesus is, and who says so, shall enter the kingdom of heaven. James, in his Epistle, reminds us that the demons also believe (James 2:19) and they say so (Matthew 8:28,29).



## A SURPRISED AND SHOCKED MULTITUDE

Who then are the *many* that believe who Jesus is and confess Him with their mouths, but who will not enter the kingdom of heaven? We are certain they never had been saved. There are some who hold to the idea that a saved person can lose his salvation, and that here Christ is speaking of such. But notice that Jesus said, "I *never* knew you." The point our Lord is making is the fact that He *never*, at any time, had anything to do with them. He *never* recognized them.

The many who will call Jesus Lord in that day were victims of deception. This is clear as we examine His teaching in the paragraph previous to the one we are considering. He exhorted the people to make certain that they walked the narrow way and entered in at the strait gate (7:13,14), and then He followed that exhortation immediately with the warning of the serious danger of false prophets (7:15-20). Those deceivers persuade the people to walk the broad way and enter the wide gate. The *many* in verse 22 were deceived by the false teachers.

## FALSE PROPHETS

The false prophet is a deceiver who at first appears to be all that one would expect as being correct. He disguises himself as a sheep when actually he is a wolf. He impresses you as a nice, innocent person whose aim is to help you. Jesus said they "come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (7:15). Their teaching, on the surface, seems quite correct but in actuality it follows the broad way which leads to destruction.

The word *wolves* was a common term for false leaders and false prophets among the Jews. The prophet Ezekiel wrote, "Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain" (Ezekiel 22:27). Conditions in Zephaniah's time were bad. The prophet said, "Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow. Her prophets are light and treacherous persons . . ." (Zephaniah 3:3,4).

The Lord Jesus said to His disciples, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves . . ." (Matthew 10:16). He said that He was the Good Shepherd who came to protect His flock from the wolves (John 10:11,12). Before Paul departed from Ephesus he warned the elders of coming dangers, saying, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29,30).

Be on your guard for those persons who wear the cloth but have no right to wear it. God said they speak lies in the name of the Lord, "they wear a rough garment to deceive" (Zechariah 13:3,4). The "rough garment" was a garment of wool, a sheepskin worn with the fleece inside, next to the body for warmth. It was the conventional dress of the Old Testament prophet, called his mantle. The prophet Elijah wore such a mantle (I Kings 19:13), passing it on later to Elisha (I Kings 19:19). Elijah and Elisha were true prophets of God, but there were false prophets also who went about using the office of the prophet, gaining prestige and imposing on the generosity of God's people.

## THE SATANIC ART OF DECEPTION

Deceiving people is their stock in trade. They are subtle. Paul describes them as "false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:13). Peter said, "there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies" (2 Peter 2:1). Their kind, Jude writes, "crept in unawares" (Jude 4). Because of their outward appearance as sheep they are not suspected as someone who is false.

Peter gives us a clue as to their *modus operandi* when he writes, "There were false prophets also among the people . . .", meaning, I take it, the *people* in Old Testament times. Moses warned the children of Israel of the coming of false prophets (Deuteronomy 13:1). It seems the false prophet would appear wherever God would raise up His true prophet. The disguise of the false prophet would make it difficult for the people to detect his error.

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones points to the false prophet in Jeremiah's time as an illustration. He went among the people saying, "Peace, peace; when there is no peace" (Jeremiah 6:14). He is a very comforting preacher always leaving the impression that there is not very much wrong. He never disturbs you or makes you feel uncomfortable, he never preaches against sin or about the holiness and righteousness of God. The falseness is not in what he *does* say but rather in what he *does not* say.

Because a man does not preach things that are obviously wrong and untrue does not exclude him from being a false prophet. A preacher does not have to preach heresy to make him a wolf in sheep's clothing. He is a false prophet if he conceals the truth. There is some good in most religions. But then there is a lot of good food thrown into garbage pails every day, but few people would go to the garbage pails to get it and eat it. Beware of false prophets.



## DECEPTION LEADS TO DETERIORATION

The present state of the professing Christian Church is one of deterioration. She has lost her strength and effectiveness. And this sad state of affairs is not confined to the liberal and modernistic churches. In some evangelical, conservative churches there is not the forthright preaching of the whole counsel of God. Too frequently the programs are light, breezy and entertaining, lacking strong expository preaching of God's Word. The preachers preach vaguely and generally with their strongest emphasis on the love of God.

We must be aware of appearances. The wolf in sheep's clothing prophet may speak correctly and appear to live the good life, and yet deceive many. Even if a person is deceived for only a little while, the damaging results could be permanent. What appears to be righteousness in our eyes could be filthy rags in God's sight. One of the major weaknesses in too many Christians is the lack of discernment, the inability to judge correctly both the preacher and his preaching.

When the disciples asked our Lord for the sign of His coming at the end of the age, He answered, "Take heed that no man *deceive* you . . . For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall *deceive* many . . . And many false prophets shall rise and deceive many . . . For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that if it were possible, they shall *deceive* the very elect" (Matthew 24:4,5,11,24).

In the verses mentioned above our Lord made it clear that, as the age runs its course and His coming to the earth draws near, *deception* will be a characteristic feature. Paul, writing by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, added the following words: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (I Timothy 4:1). Today we see this growing deception on every hand. The wolves in sheep's clothing are increasing in number.

## IN JESUS NAME

Look again at those words in Matthew 7:22. Those who were deceived will say to our Lord, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied *in thy name*? and *in thy name* have cast out devils (demons)? and *in thy name* done many wonderful works?" They were so badly deceived it never once entered their minds that they were not saved. As a matter of fact they were very sure of their salvation, and no doubt greatly surprised to discover that they were lost. After all, everything they had done they did in Jesus' name. But they were deceived. The wolves in sheep's clothing had tricked them.

It is possible for any person to say, "Lord, Lord" and yet never know the Lord experientially. Jesus said, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). The five foolish virgins stood without the closed door crying, "Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not" (Matthew 25:11,12). Satan is the master deceiver, and from these passages it is clear that he has deluded many *in Jesus' name*.

The "wonderful works" these poor deluded souls will lay claim to will include miracles. Our Lord foretold how the "false Christs, and false prophets shall shew great signs and wonders" (Matthew 24:24). The word "sign" here means *miracle*. As we approach the end of the age there will be increased activity in the performing of miracles. We see much of this today in speaking in tongues and healing the sick. These demonstrations will increase to such proportions that, when the antichrist appears, "whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs (miracles) and lying wonders", the world will accept him (2 Thesalonians 2:9).

## SATAN THE IMITATOR

An important lesson we must learn is that the Devil is not an innovator, he is an imitator. His great subtlety is in his skillful ability to imitate, and at times even duplicate the works of God, and he does it *in Jesus' name*. Today there are many people whose main interest is in phenomena associated with the Christian life. They are kept busy going to meetings, getting their kicks from watching demonstrations that appear to be supernatural and miraculous. Their chief interest is in the apparent miracle rather than a personal relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. How easily any of us can succumb to this subtle tactic of Satan!

The Devil's big attraction is the experience meeting. The music is entertaining and the sermonette has in it enough of the Christian vocabulary to hold one's interest. The emphasis is upon the idea that God loves you, but the main pitch is toward an experience that has in it a touch of the miraculous and the supernatural. You are encouraged to "expect a miracle" after listening to people testify about the miracle they experienced. Then you are urged to phone in, or send in your dollars to support "this great work". And all in Jesus' name.

People enjoy watching a spectacle. They will hurry to see a pageant, a parade, a fight, anything grand and showy. But the greatest spectacle of all, the drama of the ages, is the struggle between good and evil. The leading actors are God on one side and the Devil on the other. What the spectators and participants on earth do not see is the disguise and deceitfulness of sin. The Devil's religion glitters like a crown of gold on its head, but it has the sting of death in its tail (Revelation 9:10).

There is a new brand of Christianity (so called). It moved in upon us in the 1950's, having the glamour and excitement of a mighty spectacular. It came in Jesus' name, quoting the Bible, and attributing its miracles of speaking in tongues, casting out demons and healing to the power of the Holy Spirit. Roman Catholic priests and nuns and protestant ministers of all denominations jumped on its bandwagon. Its greatest achievement has been to divide families, split churches, and create unprecedented confusion.

My friend, "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints" (I Corinthians 14:33). Tens of thousands have been led astray. They have followed those who claimed to prophesy in Jesus' name, who cast out demons in Jesus' name, and in Jesus' name have done many wonderful works. God alone knows where they will spend eternity. Jesus said, "And then will I profess unto them (many), I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Beware of false prophets.

If you would possess the Kingdom of all kingdoms, you must be born again. Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Here is the mandate of the King of kings. Have you experienced the new birth?



## CHAPTER II

### THE BIG LIE

There is a strange and mysterious struggle going on in our world. It is affecting our whole society, and the effects which are being produced are not good but evil. The moral and spiritual foundation of our nation are being shaken. We are facing the greatest revolution this world has ever seen. We are witnessing an obvious deterioration politically, educationally, economically, religiously and morally.

Exactly what is happening to our society? The struggle going on is one between God and Satan, between the Holy Spirit and evil spirits, between Christ and antichrist. The battle is for control of the total man, spirit, mind and body. We know God is sovereign, but it is obvious that Satan is influencing man in all three areas.

The essence of the conflict revolves around two key expressions mentioned in the Bible, namely, *the truth* and *the lie*. The Lord Jesus stated it clearly when He said, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in *the truth*, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a (the) lie, he speaketh of his own (self): for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44). Take special notice of those two expressions, *the truth* and *the lie*. (In the Greek text the definite article precedes the word "lie").

We know that Jesus Christ is *the truth* personified. He said, "I am . . . *the truth*" (John 14:6). We know further that Satan is *the lie* personified. Jesus said, "When he speaketh *the lie* he speaketh of his own (self)." Christ *the truth* is also *the life*. Satan *the lie* is the destroyer of life, a murderer. The conflict, then, is a life and death struggle. God's desire for man is that he possess eternal life; Satan's design for man is that he suffer eternal death. And so the war continues — *the truth* versus *the lie*.



## 1. The Definition of the Lie

Stated in simple terms, *the lie* is the denial of God the Creator and the self-deification of the creature, or created being. Whenever a created being abandons his Creator, he is controlled by *the lie*. Those persons who conclude that they don't need God are in Satan's control. When *the truth* is rejected, a vacuum is created in the mind, and at that point *the lie* moves in and takes control. Every unsaved person who rejects *the truth* is under Satan's rule. The average unsaved person will resent being told that he is under the Devil's influence and power, nevertheless it is a fact, like it or not.

The explanation of *the lie*, namely, the denial of God as Creator and the self-deification of the created being, is spelled out clearly in Romans, chapter one. Here we are reminded that early in man's history he had a knowledge of God revealed in creation, a knowledge which left him without excuse. Paul wrote, "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). At no time in man's earliest history was he without a witness of God (Acts 14:17). The Psalmist wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard" (Psalm 19:13). From the beginning of man's history God made certain that His creatures would of necessity be without excuse.

Paul continues, "When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God . . . and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things" (Romans 1:21,23). Man changed the uncorruptible Creator into an image of the corrupted created being. He denied his Creator and deified the created being. Man didn't need God.

The Apostle then follows with an explanation of the process by which man dethroned God and deified himself. "Who changed *the truth* of God into a (*the*) *lie*, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator . . ." (Romans 1:25). I am taking the liberty of suggesting a private translation of verse 25: "Who exchanged *the truth* for *the lie*, and worshipped and served the created being rather than the Creator." When *the truth* was rejected by man, *the lie* moved in and took control. The true biblical idea of God as the eternal, self-existent, omnipotent Creator was exchanged for the false concept that man could become his own god. This is the big lie.

## 2. The Dawn of the Lie

Where did this idea of denying God and deifying one's self originate? It began with an angel in the spirit-world. Jesus said that the Devil was "the father of it" (John 8:44). The lie was conceived in the mind of Lucifer. Of course he was not the Devil when the thought first came to him. He was then an unfallen angel, one of God's created beings.

Lucifer was a creature of rare beauty (Ezekiel 28:17). He became self-occupied and proud, which in turn led him to say, "I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:14). As far as we know, he was the first created being to reject God and deify himself. His pride-filled heart had blinded him completely to his creaturely origin and subservience to his Creator. He imagined himself like God. The prophet Ezekiel quotes him as saying, "I am a God, I sit in the seat of God" (Ezekiel 28:2). Lucifer's self-occupation led to self-deception which in turn led to self-glorification. In his imagination he did not need God.

Now don't get the idea that Lucifer became an atheist. He worked out a theological system all his own, but it was a "theology" without God. He continued being a religious person. His apostasy showed up in his rejection of the one true God and the exaltation of himself as God. This is how the lie began.

## 3. The Development of the Lie

Had *the lie* been confined to the spirit-world and angels, our human civilization might never have known its present demoralized and corrupt condition. But Satan was determined to advance his new religion. *The lie* had to be developed. He began by enlisting other angels into his new religious system. Jude refers to them as "the angels which kept not their first estate" (Jude 6). Peter speaks of them as "the angels that sinned" (II Peter 2:4). *The lie* began to spread.

But Satan was not content to confine his new "theology" to the spirit-world. He saw his opportunity on one of the planets where God had placed another of His creatures, namely, man. And so Satan invaded the earth.

The Genesis account of Satan's invasion of the earth with *the lie* is, like all Scripture, an amazingly accurate one. It calls for a careful examination. Satan began by asking a question which caused Eve to doubt the goodness of God. "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1) In substance he was asking, "Did God really put restrictions on you? Won't God allow you to have what you want?" He is making God to appear unfair and severe. This was Satan's softening-up process for *the lie*.



Here it is! "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods (God), knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5). The word "gods" should be translated "God". The Hebrew word is *Elohim*, as in Genesis 1:1 — "In the beginning God . . ."

This is the lie — "You don't need God. He will only tell you what you can and cannot do. Deny God. Eat the fruit and you will become like God."

The intrusion of Satan into the Garden of Eden with *the lie* was the greatest catastrophe to befall the human race. Ever since that satanic invasion man has refused to be subordinate to his Creator. Man's dethroning God and deifying himself is the basic sin that caused the corruption we have in our world today.

A common belief today is that man is his own god. I am told that in the "Congressional Review", August 2nd, 1955, the late Walter Reuther said, "We do not believe in God, but that man is God." Reuther refused to classify himself as an atheist. He believed that man is God and can therefore control his own destiny. He knows differently now. God also keeps records.

#### 4. The Delusion of the Lie

Look again at the first chapter of Romans. In verse 25 *the lie* is defined as the dethroning of God the Creator and the self-deification of the being whom God created. When Satan introduced his new religious concept to Eve, he said, "Ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil." In substance he was saying, "You will possess the God-like ability to distinguish between good and evil. You will be able to set your own moral standards. By becoming your own God, you won't have to be bound by restrictions placed upon you by God."

The most subtle and deceptive aspect of Satan's lie was in leading Eve to believe that to partake of that which God had forbidden would be for her a rewarding experience.

But was it? It was rewarding to be sure, but the reward was bitter and disastrous. Paul wrote plainly about those injurious results. "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet" (Romans 1:26,27). This is the sin of homosexuality. God calls it a "vile affection", meaning a *dishonourable passion*. Notwithstanding the fact that in America there are homosexual churches with homosexual ministers, God calls homosexuality a moral evil, a *dishonourable passion*.

What else should we expect? Those persons who reject *the truth* and accept the Devil's lie have a "reprobate mind" (Romans 1:28), meaning a mind void of sound judgment. They were sold the idea that, without God, they could set their own moral standards, "knowing good and evil." But Satan's standard of right and wrong is different from God's. Our corrupt society condones the very evils God condemns. The unbridled lusts and immorality of our times are the disastrous results of Satan's lie. All rejection of *the truth* will lead to moral depravity. The mind that suppresses *the truth* will be supplanted by *the lie*.

Apart from Satan's lie there is no way to account for the low moral standards now looked upon as an acceptable way of life. When a commission was appointed to study the subject of pornography, its members came up with ideas and recommendations which made it easier for Americans to purchase immoral and indecent books, magazines and films. There is a libertarian philosophy in our country advocating the freedom of all human beings to choose their own way of life. We are told that legislation which restricts and represses the individual robs him of his freedom. We keep hearing that fornication, adultery, lesbianism, homosexuality, drug addiction and alcoholism are the right of the individual if he or she chooses such a life-style. This kind of reasoning is unsound because it comes from reprobate minds controlled by Satan.

Christian liberty is the freedom to do right, not wrong. Our sick society is under a satanic delusion. The person who rejects God's truth and accepts Satan's lie cannot make sound judgments.

#### 5. The Dominance of the Lie

The final form of Satan's lie will rule and control men and women as never before in past history. It is depicted in Second Thessalonians, chapter 2. It will appear in a man. That man will be the Devil incarnate, called "that man of sin . . . the son of perdition" (vs. 3). As Jesus Christ was "God manifest in the flesh" (I Timothy 3:16), so "that man of sin" will be Satan manifest in the flesh. As Jesus Christ *the truth* became incarnate, so Satan *the lie* will become incarnate. That devil-man is described as one "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" (vs. 4).

If my eschatology is correct, *the lie* will not reach its peak on earth until after the Church has been caught up to heaven. Before Satan's man will dominate totally, the One Who is returning will remove him from the earth. The One Who restrains him is the Holy Spirit (vs. 7), who presently indwells the Christian individually and the Church corporately. After His removal from the earth, *the lie* does its worst. The rapture of the Church



and the revelation of Satan's man will occur in that order according to God's prophetic calendar.

That period of time in the future when *the lie* dominates the earth, when Satan's man occupies the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, claiming to be God, is called in Scripture the Tribulation (Matthew 24:21,29; Revelation 7:14), the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27). Millions living on the earth at that time will have heard and rejected the Gospel of Christ. They will be in a perishing state "because they received not the love of *the truth*, that they might be saved" (II Thessalonians 2:10). They will have knowingly and willfully rejected *the truth*, thereby dooming themselves to eternity without God. Paul continues, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a (*THE*) lie" (II Thessalonians 2:11). Here again the Greek text has "*the lie*".

It appears that the stage is being set now for the coming of Satan's man. Millions of persons are professed worshippers of the Devil. They make no attempt to hide the fact that Satan is their god. The Apostle John wrote that in that day, when Satan dominates the earth, "all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him" (Revelation 13:8). All who refuse will do so under penalty of death. The lie will dominate. Satan will have reached the zenith of his power on earth.

The immoral and corrupt way of life we are witnessing today is but a foretaste of conditions on earth when *the lie* prevails. Our beloved America is in grave peril because many have accepted Satan's lie that indecent and immoral behaviour is an acceptable way of life. And we can expect this condition to become increasingly worse.

Any person in his right mind should know that man cannot fill the role of God. But "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine into them" (II Corinthians 4:4).

## 6. The Durance of the Lie

It was given to the Apostle John by the Holy Spirit to record a future incarceration of Satan for one thousand years. During this period of his imprisonment *the lie* will be suppressed and *the truth* will reign. John wrote, "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:1,2).

This is that period of time referred to as the millennium. During that entire era Christ will reign in person from Jerusalem. The moral and social ills which plague our society will not be known at that time because *the lie* will be held in check and the truth will prevail.

There will be no *lawlessness* (Isaiah 60:21; Micah 4:2). The nations will send their delegates to Jerusalem where they will receive orders from headquarters. Law and order will prevail. It will be safe to walk the streets in our cities day or night. There will be no burglaries, no breaking and entering by thieves, no bank robberies, no fear of being attacked by criminals carrying guns or knives. Such a state could exist only if the Devil is incarcerated. Today the big lie tells people to do their living, take the law in their own hands, do what is right in their own eyes. But when Satan is imprisoned and Christ reigns, such matters will change for the better.

There will be no war. The prophet Isaiah, writing of the same time period about which Micah and John wrote, said, "Of the increase in His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever . . ." (Isaiah 9:7). Micah prophesied, "And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Micah 4:3). When *the lie* is suppressed and *the truth* reigns, "peace on earth, good will toward men" will be a blessed reality.

There will be no social injustice or inequality throughout the earth (Isaiah 42:1-4), no oppression (Isaiah 42:6,7), no ignorance (Isaiah 1:9; 30:20,21), no disease (Isaiah 33:24; 35:3-6). The golden age, the eutopia for which men have looked and longed will permeate the earth when Jesus Christ reigns and Satan is incarcerated. This proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that *the lie* is responsible for the social and moral evils our world is suffering.

## 7. The Doom of the Lie

At the close of the millennium, "Satan shall be loosed out of his prison" (Revelation 12:7). While Satan is confined in the abyss during the millennium many will be born into the world whose hearts will not be yielded to Jesus Christ (Isaiah 11:6; 65:20). They will be in subjection to Christ, but by force. Any obedience to the King will only be feigned. The thousand years of Satan's incarceration will not change him, nor will the thousand years of Christ's reign change the heart of man. The heart of man, apart from surrendering to Jesus Christ, is incurably evil. Then, when Satan is loosed, He "shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the earth" (Revelation 20:8).

Here is the final rebellion of Satan and man against God. For the last time the nations of the earth will come under the spell of Satan. He is still the great deceiver of man, carrying on where he left off before his



imprisonment. He has lost none of his cunning nor does he lose any time resuming his nefarious deeds. Here is proof that man, under the most favorable conditions, will follow *the lie* and not *the truth* if left to his own choice.

But Satan's freedom is short lived. John writes, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10). The lake of fire is the place prepared for him and his angels (Matthew 25:41). He will not be annihilated, but will remain alive and conscious for all eternity.

What a tragic end for him who was once "the anointed cherub"! And all because he "abode not in the truth". Hell is both a place and a state of fire and brimstone, of conscious torment. It is the place where all must go who reject *the truth*. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15). The Bible knows nothing of the termination of their punishment; it is eternal. What an awful price for anyone to pay for rejecting *the truth*! "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved . . ." (Acts 16:31).



## RADIO LOG

### ALABAMA

Decatur	WBQM-FM	8:30 AM	Sun.
Decatur	WBQM-FM	9:30 PM	Sun.
Huntsville	WNDA-FM	1:00 PM	Sun.
Huntsville	WNDA-FM	9:00 PM	Thurs.

### ARIZONA

Phoenix	KHEP	3:00 PM	Sun.
Phoenix	KHEP	9:00 AM	M-F

### CALIFORNIA

Alturas	KCNO	9:10 AM	M-F
Bakersfield	KWSO	9:30 AM	M-F
Chico	KEWQ	8:00 AM	M-F
Corona	KREL	1:30 PM	M-F
Delano	KDNO-FM	8:30 AM	Sun.
Dinuba	KRDU	8:30 AM	M-F
Dinuba	KRDU	8:30 PM	M-F
Escondido	KOWN	8:00 AM	Sun.
Lodi	KCVR	8:00 AM	M-F
Long Beach	KGER	11:00 AM	M-F
Long Beach	KGER	9:30 PM	M-F
Los Angeles	KHOF	7:00 AM	M-F
Modesto	KHOP-FM	9:00 AM	M-F
Morro Bay	KBAI	11:30 AM	M-F
Oxnard	KDAR-FM	12:30 PM	M-F
San Bernardino/			
Riverside	KQLH-FM	9:00 AM	M-F
Santa Cruz	KSCO	8:30 AM	Sun.
San Diego	XEMO	8:00 AM	M-F
San Francisco	KFAX	8:30 AM	M-F

### COLORADO

Denver	KRKS	12:00 N	M-F
Denver	KPOF	9:30 AM	Sat.
Pueblo	KFEL	8:30 AM	M-W-F

### FLORIDA

Boca Raton	WWOG-FM	10:00 PM	Sun.
Orange Park	WAYR	7:30 AM	Sun.
Orange Park	WAYR	6:00 PM	Sun.
Orlando	WVCF	8:30 AM	Sun.
Pensacola	WPCS-FM	9:30 PM	Sun.
Bradenton	WBRD-FM	8:00 AM	Sun.

Sarasota	WKZM	1:30 PM	Sun.
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### GEORGIA

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Valdosta	WAFT-FM	2:30 PM	Sun.

### HAWAII

Honolulu	KAIM	10:00 PM	Sun.
Honolulu	KAIM-FM	10:00 PM	Sun.

### IDAHO

Caldwell	KBGN	8:30 AM	M-F
Caldwell	KBGN-FM	8:30 AM	M-F

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Quincy	WGEM-FM	8:15 AM	Sun.

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Elkhart	WXAX-FM	8:00 AM	Sun.
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### IOWA

Boone	KFGQ	1:00 PM	Sun.
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Newton	KJRG	7:30 AM	Sun.

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