

PROPHETIC STUDY SERIES

THE ANTICHRIST
HIS WORLDWIDE DECEPTION

WAKE UP AMERICA SEMINARS
Proclaiming Revelation's Story

ANTICHRIST PART 3 OF 4

To the Reader,

If you have not read Parts 1 and 2 in this series, please go to *wake-up.org/studies* and read them if you do not have the printed copy. Reading the booklets in order will make this subject much easier to understand. Additional study materials are also available at the web site.

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On occasion, I have inserted italics and brackets in Scripture quotations to enhance understanding, not to change the meaning

There are nine questions in this study guide which I hope you will answer. The author's choices are listed at the end of the booklet. May God bless your study on this critical and timely topic!

Larry Wilson

Other Booklets in this Series

The Antichrist Pt. 1 – The Man of Lawlessness

The Antichrist Pt. 2 – When Will He Appear?

The Antichrist Pt. 4 – His Throne and Tattoo

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The Antichrist

Part 3 - His Worldwide Deceptions

Short Review

The devil is the best Bible student on Earth. He maliciously uses his vast knowledge to diminish all that Jesus is and to keep people divided and confused. The devil was in the Garden of Eden when he spoke with Eve; he was in the camp when Moses descended Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments; he was in the city when Jericho fell; he watched as Solomon dedicated the temple; he was present when Jesus went to the cross; and he was in the Roman prison when Paul was beheaded. The devil and his demons have attended every event in the Bible; and now that the Bible has exposed his identity, you can expect him to promote numerous lies about the Antichrist! He's the father of lies and does not want anyone to hear or believe the truth.

In Part I we learned the Antichrist is a fallen angel, the devil, also called Satan, whom God will allow to physically appear at the "proper time." The Antichrist is an appropriate title for the devil because he is the opposite of Christ. According to Isaiah, the devil will appear as a man; Daniel describes him as a "stern-faced king;" Paul describes him as the "Man of Lawlessness." Paul also writes the devil will proclaim himself to be God and work all kinds of signs and wonders attempting to peddle his lies as truth. The Antichrist's surprise appearance will be a strong delusion for the wicked. According to

Paul, God releases the Man of Lawlessness only after people *refuse* to believe His truth and be saved. This implies the whole world will hear God's truth against which will be a great rebellion.

In Part II, we learned that the Antichrist is an angel king. He and many fallen angels are locked in the spirit realm (Abyss), and John says the devil and his demons will be released at the fifth trumpet. Revelation describes the devil and his demons descending from the sky in numbers so great John compares them to a swarm of locusts. Jesus will give these fallen angels physical bodies so mankind will see and hear them. At the Second Coming, Jesus will destroy their physical bodies in the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20) and return them to the Abyss. They will remain there for another thousand years.

John says in Revelation 9, when the devil and his demons appear, they will be given five months to deceive the world. If we keep in mind that they can teleport themselves and do not need sleep, it is easy to understand the devil and his demons will be constantly circling the globe putting on marvelous shows. Jesus warned, **“So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.”** (Matthew 24:26) The devil and his demons will make efficient use of the time by focusing on two groups of people: The religious wicked and non-religious wicked.

The devil and his demons will concentrate on the religious wicked. This group will be easier to deceive since

they already believe that God exists. When they see the devil's glory and his incredible miracles, including his astonishing ability to call fire down from Heaven, the religious wicked will fall for his lies and worship him as Almighty God. As he heals the sick and feeds thousands of starving people by multiplying a few sack lunches, the religious wicked will be "eating out of his hand."

Quiz #1: Please underline the first three words of the sentence above best describing the fate of the devil and his angels at the Second Coming.

The devil is no fool. God's wrath is going to cause the world to be in a hopeless state. The devil will speak words of hope convincing people he has come to rebuild the world and establish the kingdom of God with one thousand years of peace and prosperity. Millions who are suffering will believe him and pin their hopes on this "false prophet." I envision the devil's demons leading people in songs of praise and adoration. The overriding anthem will be, "Holy, holy, holy, God lives among men!" Endless repetition of this phrase will have a mesmerizing effect.

Meanwhile, many of the devil's demons will be making house calls to find people in the non-religious group. This group denies that God lives among men or, for that matter, that God even exists! If reason does not prevail,

the demons will use torture. Dictators know that when extremely painful torture is imposed on mom, dad, grandma, or grandpa, the remaining family members almost always will acquiesce to end the torture. Thus, many defiant and stubborn people will submit to the demands of the demons, worshiping and obeying the devil.

When the five months of the fifth trumpet are over, the sixth trumpet sounds. At this exact moment in time, to the very hour, which God set long ago, Jesus grants the devil permission to kill one-third of mankind. The devil would kill everyone if permitted, but Jesus only grants him one-third. When this moment occurs, the devil immediately discards the “gracious and benevolent” mask worn for five months. He and his demons have been planning for the sixth trumpet events for two thousand years. They have carefully planned their atrocities, and they wait patiently until they are free to execute those plans.

When the devil and his demons are given power over life and death, there is nothing mankind can do to prevent their murderous plan. The Man of Lawlessness is a fitting title because he will be a ruthless and cruel dictator. He will abolish the religions and governments of the world to set up his own one-world church-state. If God lives among men, how can a religion exist that opposes obedience to his teachings? How can a government exist that opposes his will? No one can control or kill him. Those who are caught and refuse to worship

him will be put to death. Jesus will use the devil's desire to rule and ruin to still save souls!

Angels have far superior powers and abilities compared to mankind. When Jesus gives the Antichrist and his demons absolute power over the world, mankind will become their servants. When the devil asserts his authority, a great war will break out because, suddenly, the wicked will realize their loss of freedom. The devil's forces will kill one-third of mankind in this war which I call World War IV. This war will silence his opposition and establish the devil's undisputed rule over the world. Lucifer will become "king of kings" and "lord of lords" until Jesus appears. The Antichrist will do as he pleases; he will show no pity, no justice, and no tolerance. He will have no equal in history for committing crimes against humanity. If it were not for divine intervention, his evil would destroy mankind completely.

Quiz #2: Please underline the first three words of the sentence above best describing why the devil will abolish the religions and governments of the world.

Two Reasons

God is both deliberate and purposeful in everything He does. Before He does anything, He knows everything about the outcome. No unforeseen or unintended consequences surprise Him. One of the reasons Jesus releases

the devil and his demons from the spirit realm at the fifth trumpet is because for 6,000 years, He has freely and generously allowed everyone on Earth to deny or believe in the existence of a “higher power.” He has graciously allowed each person the free will to determine his own level of accountability to his God. This freedom will end when the Antichrist is released from the Abyss.

As I understand it, over a two-year period everyone will have a chance to hear the Creator’s demands. The 144,000 will be speaking words from the Holy Spirit with penetrating power. They will exalt the Bible and use it to show their testimony is true; performing amazing miracles to confirm their testimony and ministry have divine credentials. Our Creator’s will and demands will be as clear as He can make them... nevertheless, after witnessing the horrific death and devastation caused by the first four judgments, much of the world will defy the gospel of Jesus revealed by the 144,000, Bible truth, and the Holy Spirit. Paul summarized this experience when he wrote, (a) **“For that day [the Second Coming] will not come until *the rebellion* occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.”** and, (b) **“They perish because they [heard and] refused to love the truth and so be saved. For *this reason* God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.”** (2 Thessalonians 2:3,10-11, insertions and italics mine) Therefore, when the Antichrist is released at the fifth trumpet, Jesus will put the

wicked on notice that everyone *will* submit to a higher power. It will be as though Jesus says, “you have a choice, pick one.”

The release of the devil and his demons at the fifth trumpet initiates another interesting process. Jesus wants to save every sinner. However, to move the last few sinners past their rebellion, Jesus releases the devil and his demons. The devil knows his punishment cannot be pardoned. He also understands the book of Revelation and knows his fate. Jesus understands the devil is eager to “rule and ruin” the Earth. He knows the devil has wanted to be worshiped as God for thousands of years. Jesus also knows the devil is eager to torture and destroy mankind. Satan hates Jesus and the Father with a passion that goes beyond man’s comprehension.

Jesus knows the devil’s desires; and when the 144,000 and Holy Spirit’s work stalls because billions of people are unwilling to obey His gospel, Jesus will release a “higher power” over mankind. If Jesus allows the devil to deceive the religious wicked and torture the non-religious wicked, it is because He knows some wicked people in each group will wake up, repent, and choose salvation! This choice will prove far better than submitting to the authority of the abominable Antichrist! Jesus knows that giving a fatally ruined Earth over to the devil to “rule and ruin” in exchange for a few souls is a great deal for both parties!

Quiz #3: Please underline the first three words of the sentence above best describing why Jesus releases the devil to deceive and torture people.

The Great Tribulation Begins

I believe the Great Tribulation will begin during the next worldwide war, World War III. After warring nations have killed millions of innocent people with nuclear exchanges, Jesus will suddenly step into the war with fire-power so great, it will arrest the attention of each person and cause the war to cease! When the whole world is praying for “peace and safety,” Jesus will send “sudden destruction.” (1 Thessalonians 5:3) His display of divine power and His forthcoming judgments will initiate the Great Tribulation.

First, there will be signs in the Heavens and in the Earth followed by a severe global earthquake. (See Revelation 8:2-13.) Then, a meteoric firestorm will occur burning one-third of the Earth! Two civilization-threatening asteroid impacts will follow. The first asteroid will impact an ocean and the resulting tsunami will destroy thousands of coastal cities around the rim of the ocean. The second asteroid will impact a continent, shearing its geologic strata. Underground aquifers will be contaminated by sewage and buried waste. Poisoned water will be widely transported by underground rivers and millions of people will die from drinking the water, even though they live long distances from ground zero.

Then, the “Ring of Fire” around the Pacific Ocean will come to life and many volcanos will spew dust and soot into the atmosphere. The jet stream will transport this debris around the middle third of Earth and cause global darkness and famine. Subsequently, the devil’s miracles will be so effective at the fifth trumpet when he heals the sick and feeds millions of starving people!

According to Revelation 6:7-8, one-fourth of Earth’s population (~2 billion people) will die from the first four trumpets when the Lamb breaks the fourth seal. I understand these four judgments will occur over a period of about 65 days. To say “God’s wrath will traumatize the world” is a gross understatement. The religious and political leaders, like everyone else who has no clue about the fulfillment of Revelation 8, will be extremely frightened and overwhelmed with Jesus’ display of sovereign power.

When world leaders realize Earth’s power grids, communication, commerce, manufacturing, and transportation have been destroyed, fear of God will fall on billions of people. Religious people will say, “This is the wrath of Almighty God;” especially after the 144,000 declare Revelation 8 describes the order of these four judgments which have destroyed *notably wicked places!* When tribulation, fear, darkness, suffering, and sorrow fill each passing hour, a new reality will occur. These judgments will be off the scale in comparison to previous world wars; the amount of destruction and fear they bring is mind=boggling. As misery within every

nation increases, leaders of the remaining nations will not escape the evidence: Almighty God is angry with the *whole* world.

Quiz #4: Please underline the first three words of the sentence above best describing why religious people will believe that God is angry with mankind.

The Seven Religious Systems of the World

The book of Revelation divides the people of the world into seven general religious systems: Atheism (agnostics, deists, etc.), Heathenism (tribal religions, occult groups such as Wiccan, etc.), Judaism (Orthodox, Reformed, etc.), Islam (Sunni, Shiite, etc.), Eastern Mysticism (Hinduism, Buddhism, etc.), Catholicism (Orthodox, Greek, Anglican, etc.), and Protestantism (Baptists, Pentecostals, etc.). The Bible considers Atheism to be a religion because like the other systems, it is a faith-based belief system. Atheists *believe* there is no God.

When Jesus selects the 144,000, He will choose unlikely people for the job. Each one will personally meet with Jesus. Once Jesus explains His presence, they will immediately recognize and worship Him as their Creator and Savior! Jesus will give each one the words they are to speak, represented as a little book in Ezekiel 3 and Revelation 10. The 144,000 will stand firm in their faith because they will be sealed with Holy Spirit

power. They will come from every tongue, culture, and religious background so the 144,000's message will be most effective. Because Jesus wants to save as many people as possible, He will select and empower those people who can best represent Him before their own people.

Jesus understands man's religious bias, cultural prejudice, and ethnic suspicion. Remember, Jesus did live on Earth for a while. Currently, a Muslim cannot tell a Protestant that his Protestant faith is false and expect a pleasant outcome. Likewise, a Catholic cannot tell a Jew his religion is false and expect an endearing response. However, an enlightened Catholic can speak to his Catholic brothers and sisters, an enlightened Muslim can speak to his Muslim brothers and sisters, an enlightened Jew can speak to Jews, and an enlightened Protestant can speak to Protestants (maybe)!

Convenient Lies

The devastation caused by the four judgments in Revelation 8 will cause religious and political leaders of the world to quickly assemble to discuss God's wrath. World leaders will set aside religious and political differences due to the fear of God because their respective nations will be in ruins and two billion people will be missing, dead, or dying. Seeing the calamity around them and fearing more imminent displays of God's wrath, the leaders of the world will discuss inflammatory topics behind closed doors that would have otherwise been impossible.

The religious leaders of the world will be unable to resolve their religious conflicts. However, they know billions of terrified people are anxious for an explanation and solution to stop God's wrath. The clergy will agree on an astonishing solution and political leaders will have little choice but to accept. Everyone at the table will acknowledge something must be done or God will soon destroy the world! Given their fear and extremity of the moment, religious leaders will compromise on certain fundamental beliefs thereby appearing united before the world. These convenient lies are needed to justify their plan to save planet Earth from further "acts of God."

I call these "convenient" lies because they will not be a malicious or a deliberate effort to mislead people. Given the dire circumstances, these lies will be the best that world leaders can do. They will be convenient in the sense they are both expedient and somewhat reasonable. The clergy will assume most of their constituency will comply. The greatest lie is they can presume to appease God's wrath. This proves that they do not know God, His Word, character, ways, or plans; but, profess to. Additionally, the clergy will not realize it at the time, but their convenient lies will be their undoing when the devil and his demons appear at the fifth trumpet.

Quiz #5: Please underline the first three words of the sentence above best describing why religious leaders will compromise on their beliefs.

The First Lie

The first question on every survivor's mind will be "Who is doing this...Who is angry: Is it the Muslim god, Allah; the Jewish god, Jehovah; the Christian God called, the Father; or the Hindu god of destruction, Shiva?" Of course, no one will be able to definitively answer the question. This will lead to another provocative and potentially inflammatory question: "Does mankind worship one God having different titles or many different gods?"

How can this be when Jews worship Jehovah, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; but Muslims worship Allah, the God of Abraham, Ishmael, and Mohammed. If Jews and Muslims worship the same God, why is God's will for Jews different from the teachings of Mohammed? The Bible exalts Jacob's descendants, not Ishmael's descendants. (Genesis 17:18-21) The Book of Islam exalts Mohammed as a prophet and excludes the testimony of Old Testament prophets. If Jehovah and Allah are titles for the same God, why does a great antagonistic gulf exist between the two religions?

To make matters worse, the gods of Muslims, Jews, and Hindus do not have a son called "Jesus" and these religious systems strenuously oppose the idea that Jesus is deity, the Creator of the world. If Jesus is deity, He is greater than Mohammed and that is not a possibility for Muslims.

Likewise, Catholics and Protestants will have conflict. Both religious systems believe in "The Father, Son, and

Holy Ghost,” but they are far apart on what constitutes “The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,” as well as the process of salvation.

Catholic traditions do not agree with Protestant traditions, and Islamic traditions do not agree with Hindu or Jewish traditions. Even though everyone agrees there is an angry God, how does a religiously and politically diverse world worship and appease whichever god has devastated the world and killed two billion people? Consider the problems these questions will create.

So the first lie will be words like this, *“Everyone on Earth worships the same God, even though we worship Him in different ways and call Him by different names and titles.”* Billions of people will accept this lie, because they do not know enough about God and/or other religions to know the truth. Since it is politically and religiously inflammatory to declare anyone’s god a false god, this lie will be a convenient way to get around the question of which god is angry. Furthermore, the survivors will be so traumatized that most of them will not care. They will go along, to get along, with whatever the experts say because they just want God’s wrath to end!

The first lie will give survivors a sense of community because all humanity must work together to appease God. However, the first lie will produce an inflammatory conflict. The 144,000 will tell the world that Jesus rules on Heaven’s throne as Almighty God and He sent the judgments. (Ephesians 1:9,10; Daniel 7:13,14; Revelation 19:16)

Jesus will tell the world through the 144,000 that He is the Creator, the judge of mankind, and He is returning soon to save those who will repent of their sins, put their faith in Him, and obey His gospel. They will also give the message that when Jesus returns, He will destroy His enemies. Of course, during the early days of the Great Tribulation, people will not realize that it is Jesus actually speaking through the 144,000. Their experience will be identical to God's prophets in Bible times when most were killed for speaking Jesus' words which listeners considered offensive. (Matthew 23:37)

The Second Lie

Religious leaders will advocate a second lie to appease God. They will claim God's wrath fell on notably wicked places in every nation which proves all nations and peoples are accountable to Him. Clearly, He has been offended and is angry with our sinful and decadent ways. They will say, *"To appease God's wrath, we must worship Him, repent and change. We cannot turn a blind eye and ignore any behavior that is offensive to God."* Although their claim will seem reasonable, it will be false. If the religious leaders of the world properly understood the books of Daniel and Revelation, they would have anticipated God's wrath and known His purposes for the judgments. They would also know that appeasing Jesus is not an option. Nothing can stop the seven trumpets. Jesus will close the drama with sin by separating the sheep from the goats.

The first four trumpets will be followed by a fifth! To appease God's wrath, the religious and political leaders

of the world will create a monstrosity of a government: the seven-headed beast described in Revelation 13:1-8. This beast will be a worldwide church-state, governed by seven religious dictators from the seven religious systems of the world. Religious leaders will dictate the rules, political leaders will implement their demands, and law enforcement personnel will ensure compliance. Everyone who refuses will be severely punished.

The clergy will think that God's wrath has broken out because the world is too corrupt and evil, and if corruption and evil are eliminated, God's favor will return. They will attempt to do this by creating a long list of *sin-less* laws and severely punishing offenders. God knows that man's sinful nature is his greatest problem and *coerced* conduct does not change man's heart. God wants free-will beings! He wants a person, of his own free will, to consider God's love and His offer of salvation. If that person is moved by the Holy Spirit to obey the gospel of Jesus and becomes a repentant sinner, this pleases God and makes salvation possible!

The upcoming crisis government has seven heads because there are seven religious systems. Each religious system will have its own dictator. This beast of a government will try to appease God according to seven different versions of what is believed to please Him. This will be impossibly stupid. The clergy agreed to the convenient lie that there is one God; however, each head will go about representing God as though there were seven Gods! All seven heads will blaspheme (insult) God! This is why

a blasphemous name is written on each of their heads! (Revelation 13:1) Man's response to God's judgments will be a horrible case of the "blind leading the blind." (Matthew 15:14) The Bible predicts the whole world will follow the seven-headed beast as it leads the way into greater misery and blasphemy! (Revelation 13:3)

Quiz #6: Please underline the first three words of the sentence above best describing why the seven-headed beast has seven heads.

The Third Lie

The leaders of the seven-headed beast will create a third convenient lie to justify their extreme solution to appease God. This lie will be: "*The creation of a worldwide religious authority [seven-headed beast] is God's will.*" They will claim to have created the government which provides divine direction for the nations. The political leaders of the world will then enforce the laws deemed necessary to rid the world of evil so God is appeased. The leaders will claim God confirmed their intentions to please Him with a show of signs and wonders. Repentance and reformation will be mandatory if people want to, once again, enjoy the favor and blessings of God.

The clergy will quickly conclude global reformation is only possible if *all* political leaders give them unfettered authority to accomplish their objectives. Since martial

law will be in effect around the world, constitutional and legislative protection for human rights will not interfere with the clergy's unrestrained and insane overreach. Remember, the clergy will be terrified of God's wrath like everyone else. This is exactly what the devil wants.

Even though the devil and demons will be in the Abyss until the fifth trumpet, Satan will have a huge role in the formation and power of the seven-headed beast. The Bible says, "**The dragon [the devil] gave the [seven-headed] beast his power and his throne and great authority.**" (Revelation 13:2, insertions mine) Make no mistake about this: Even though the devil has been confined to the Abyss for thousands of years, his work and influence around the world is tremendous! The devil and his demons control many people. The devil has enormous influence within the seven religious systems of the world! The devil will give miracle-working powers to certain people to confirm the creation of the seven-headed beast is God's will! (Matthew 7:21-22) Their astonishing miracles will convince the world's political leaders that God is demanding dramatic change. Jesus warned, "**For false christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect – if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time.**" (Matthew 24:24-25)

Quiz #7: Please underline the first three words of the sentence above best describing what will convince political leaders God is demanding change.

No Judgments Fall for Two Years

After the fourth judgment occurs, there likely will be no more judgments for over two years. I explained in Part II why I think the fifth trumpet could occur around the 890th day: Jesus holds the devil in the Abyss for two-thirds of the 1,335 days allotted to the Great Tribulation. If my reasoning is correct, the religious leaders will boast that the *apparent* cessation of God's judgments, for the two years, proves their decision to create a worldwide church-state was God's will. Additionally, they will boast that their laws and punishments have been rewarded because no more judgments have fallen! Of course, this will be foolishness.

By the end of the fourth trumpet, the religious and political leaders of the world will have blasphemed God by condemning the "testimony of Jesus" given by the 144,000 true prophets. Also, they will have inflicted much needless and bitter pain on people already hurting from God's judgments. Unforgivably, their stiff penalties have kept many people from embracing the gospel of Jesus. Many people do not have much faith in God during the good times, so when persecution is involved, suffering for Jesus makes cowards out of them. Notice what Jesus said, **"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."** (Revelation 21:8) Jesus gave up everything to save repentant sinners and

requires the same of His disciples: **“Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”** (Matthew 10:37-39)

The Deceptions of the Antichrist

We have considered the identity of the Antichrist, when he will appear, and God’s first four judgments resulting in the formation of the seven-headed beast. The Antichrist is a master of manipulation and the father of lies. He will use the *three convenient lies* to cause the religious leaders of the world to facilitate his future agenda. Notice how each lie will fit into the devil’s masquerade when Jesus allows him to appear:

Lie #1: “Everyone on Earth worships the same God, even though we worship Him in different ways and call Him by different names and titles.”

The Antichrist will use this lie to give Himself immediate credibility. He will say words to the effect, “In times past, I was worshiped according to various titles created by different religions, but this practice ends today. I am God. There is no other.” Paul wrote, “[H]e sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God. . . He [the Man of Lawlessness] will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie [that he is God], and all the ways that wicked-

ness deceives those who are perishing.” (2 Thessalonians 2:4; 9-10, insertions mine)

John wrote, “**And he** [the beast that rises from the Abyss, which is the Antichrist, the devil] **performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from Heaven to Earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power** [from God] **to do on behalf of the first beast** [the devil will appear to honor and exalt the church/state (the seven-headed beast) created by the clergy during the five months of the fifth trumpet because he will turn the church-state entity into a great advantage at the sixth trumpet], **he** [the beast, the devil] **deceived the inhabitants of the Earth** [with his lies and miracles].” (Revelation 13:13-14, insertions mine)

The seven-headed beast will pursue and relentlessly persecute the saints. John wrote, “**He** [the seven-headed beast, the crisis-government, the religious authority directing the appeasement of God] **was given power to wage war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation** [without firing a single bullet].” (Revelation 13:7, insertion mine) “**The beast** [the seven-headed beast] **was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.**” (Revelation 13:5, insertion mine)

When the devil appears at the fifth trumpet, he will proclaim the greatness of the seven-headed beast and honor the world’s religious leaders for punishing those

who refused to obey its laws. Of course, the clergy will gladly receive “God’s” praise; but Jesus warned his disciples, **“In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or Me.”** (John 16:2-3)

For five months, the devil will be on a determined mission to convince the entire world he is God. Building on the clergy’s lie, he will proclaim himself to be the one and only God. Daniel wrote, **“The [stern-faced] king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.”** (Daniel 11:36, insertion mine)

Satan will claim since he has arrived to establish the kingdom of God on Earth, everyone must abandon his former religious beliefs and embrace the truth about God. He will say, “God lives among men! Come to me and learn truth, put your faith in me, not the past or the ideas of poorly informed people.”

Quiz #8: Please underline the first three words of the sentence above best describing why the devil will insist that everyone put away former religious beliefs.

Carefully review Paul words, “**He will *oppose* and will *exalt* himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.**” (2 Thessalonians 2:4, italics mine) It is very important to understand that the devil will *oppose* everything having to do with God. This means he will not favor Muslims over Catholics, or Hindus over Jews. He will be equally opposed to Protestants and Atheists. If the devil were to show favoritism for one religious group, he would alienate the other groups and ruin his endeavor to make the entire world worship him as God because of man’s natural bias toward the religious system with which he is most familiar. A Protestant would not worship the Antichrist who advocates Islam. A Muslim would not worship the Antichrist who advocates Judaism. Paul’s words must be strongly considered to avoid being deceived by the Antichrist!

The lie that mankind worships one God who is called by different names will play directly into the devil’s coming deception. Be prepared. To show his disregard for the religions of the world, Satan will even establish a new day for worship!

Lie #2: “To appease God’s wrath, we must worship Him, repent and change.”

During the five months the devil is deceiving the world, he will claim that *he* withheld his wrath for two years because of the sincere and excellent work of the religious and political leaders. Their dedication has been

rewarded with no further judgments. He will commend them for severely punishing the rebels (actually, the saints). The devil will appear to be gracious and benevolent, but he will remind his audiences that to avoid further judgments, a deeper repentance and more substantial changes are required now that God lives among men! A new era has begun and it requires a new mindset.

The devil will use Lie #2 many times to prepare unsuspecting people for the abrupt changes he will force on them as soon as the five months of the fifth trumpet are finished. Jesus prevents the devil from killing a large portion of mankind for five months because He has higher power and objectives. Jesus wants to save defiant people from the devil's clutches if at all possible.

As the devil's popularity grows around the world, he will begin to teach that all religious requirements must change. "Now that God lives among us, there must be one Lord, one faith and one baptism! How can it be otherwise? Believe in me; put your trust in me; worship me! I have come to establish the kingdom of God on Earth for the next one thousand years. I have to purge the Earth of unbelievers to do this! Do not harden your hearts! Change your minds and let your past religious beliefs go. Change your hearts and give God your loyal affection. Change your ways and do as I command you, and you will be blessed starting today!" After seeing more signs and wonders and listening to his gentle persuasion (remember, he deceived one-third of the angels in Heaven), this master of lies will seduce multitudes of people.

Lie #3: “The creation of a worldwide religious authority [seven-headed beast] is God’s will.”

Jesus will give the devil absolute power over Earth with permission to kill one-third of mankind at the sixth trumpet. When the devil receives this power, he will cause an unimaginable uproar throughout Earth, and World War IV will begin.

The devil will say words to this effect, “The formation of a worldwide church-state, governed by seven religious leaders has served well. You have heard me praise your leaders for all that they have accomplished. Millions of rebellious and defiant people have been punished for disobedience. However, now that I have come to establish the kingdom of God on Earth for the next one thousand years, a similar, but much better, form of government is needed so that everyone will have one king, one lord, one faith, and one baptism. Therefore, I am declaring myself king of Earth and the kingdom of God will be established among men. The religions and governments of the world are hereby abolished. I will declare the laws of the kingdom. All who refuse to obey and worship me will be captured and killed. I must purge Earth of rebellion! The earlier laws [from the seven-headed beast] must give way to my theocracy. I will rule as Lord of lords and King of kings and be worshiped as Almighty God. The penalty for defiance is death.”

John wrote, “**He** [the beast from the Abyss, the devil] **ordered them** [the people of the world] **to set up an**

image [a clone or mirror of the church-state created by religious leaders] **in honor of the** [seven-headed] **beast who** [had a head that] **was wounded by the sword and yet lived.** **He** [that is, the beast from the Abyss] **was given power** [from God] **to give breath** [life] **to the image** [the mirror] **of the first beast** [the clone which the devil demands will be a theocracy – both the seven-headed beast and the devil’s theocracy are church/state governments], **so that it** [the devil’s clone] **could speak** [make laws] **and cause all who refused to worship** [obey] **the image** [that is, his theocracy] **to be killed** [because the beast from the Abyss has been given absolute power over mankind.].” (Revelation 13:14-15, insertions mine)

Quiz #9: Please underline the first three words of the sentence above best describing why the devil will insist on establishing his theocracy.

The religious and political leaders of the world will be shocked! For five months “God” has been praising their efforts to appease his wrath by punishing the saints, but now, he throws them under the bus and counts everyone who resists as worthy of death! This is the way the devil works. He *uses* flattery, deception, and lies to obtain whatever he wants. He loves and appreciates no one. The religious and political leaders of the world will unite to stop his tyranny, but it will be a losing battle. This coming world war is described in

Revelation 9:13-21. We will examine it in detail in our next study: Part IV, His Throne and Tattoo.

Summary

The following elements have to be understood to appreciate the deceptions of the Antichrist:

1. The identity of the Antichrist as the Man of Lawlessness
2. The Antichrist's appearance after there is a great rebellion, when the gospel has stalled
3. Why Jesus releases the Antichrist and his angels from the spirit realm and permits them to appear "in the flesh."
4. The terrifying destruction and death of ~2 billion people coming with the first four trumpets (judgments)
5. The knee-jerk response of the world's religious and political leaders to appease God's wrath
6. The purpose and reach of the seven-headed beast (crisis-government)
7. The three convenient lies used to justify the creation of the seven-headed beast
8. The seven-headed beast with seven *governors* leading seven different ways to appease God
9. The hardship people endure before the Antichrist is released from the Abyss

10. Why the Antichrist performs amazing miracles and proclaims himself to be God
11. Why the Antichrist is opposed to all religions and will not align with any one religion
12. Why the three lies created by religious leaders perfectly align with the devil's lies
13. The "rule and ruin" objectives of the Antichrist

As you can see, a person needs to understand multiple elements to appreciate the depth of this topic and we are not through! The Bible lays out a map of coming events and when the 144,000 begin their work, the map will become clear. You and I are blessed because God permits us, by His grace, to study and understand these matters before they occur.



Answers to Study Questions

1. At the Second
2. He will abolish
3. If Jesus allows
4. Religious people will
5. Given their fear
6. The upcoming crisis
7. Their astonishing miracles
8. Satan will claim
9. However, now that

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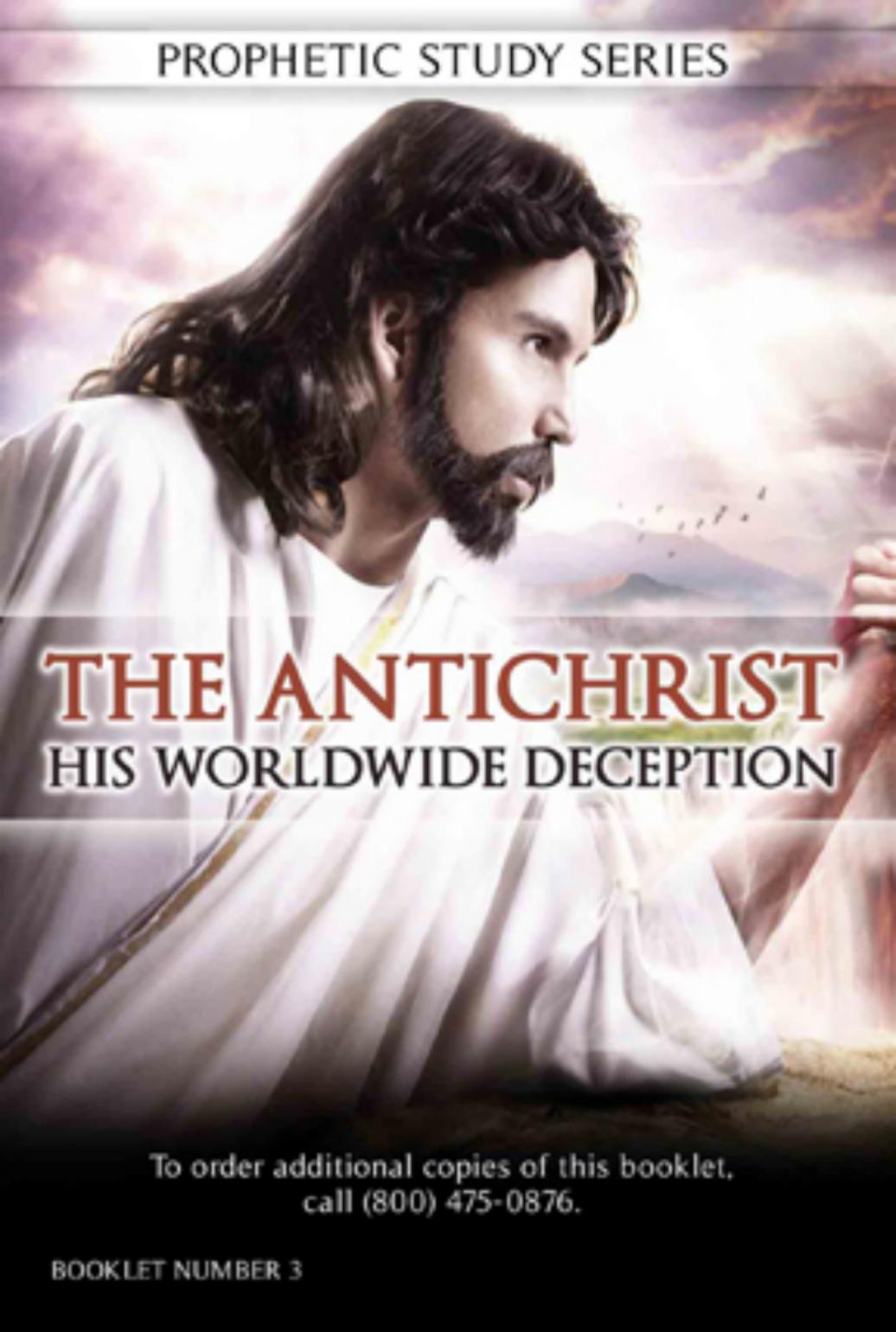
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