

A Biblical Profile of the Antichrist: PROFILE #3 – Deception

One of the strongest indictments recorded in the Word of God regarding the nature and character of Satan is issued by our Lord and Savior in John 8:44 –

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

In describing the devil as “the father of lies,” Jesus is revealing that falsehood originates with Satan and has been cultivated by him throughout human history. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that his primary method in manipulating people is deception. This will be especially true at the end of the age; first, as a precursor to the Tribulation; and then, in a full blown onslaught of deluding influence, during that seven year period of hell on earth.

Whether we realize it or not, we are currently living in this precursory period, as taught by our Savior during His Olivet Discourse. The primary characteristic of this time just prior to His return, will be that of a deceptiveness which will mislead many (Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 24). Matthew 24:24 is especially noteworthy –

“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”

It seems as if the proponents of these falsehoods will serve a two-fold purpose. First, they will condition the human race with a variety of fictions. This, in turn, will prepare the world’s stage for the appearing of the Antichrist, who will take duplicity to an entirely new level. That ability at misleading others, is recorded for us in Daniel 8:25, and confirmed in 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10 –

“And through his shrewdness he will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; and he will magnify himself in his heart, and he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, but he will be broken without human agency.”

“Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.”

The power to deceive others will make Antichrist the most persuasive salesman of a false bill of goods the world has ever seen.