

### THE FALSE PROPHET ...

- Despite his deceptively mild appearance, **the false prophet** is no less a child of hell than the Antichrist. That is evident because he spoke as a dragon—a strange voice indeed for a lamb. The false prophet, like Antichrist, will be the dragon Satan’s mouthpiece, speaking his words. [MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2000). *Revelation 12–22* (p. 59). Chicago: Moody Press.]
- **False prophets often appear meek, mild, and harmless.** They offer hope and solutions to the problems troubling men and women. Yet they are ever the voices of hell, and when they open their mouths, Satan speaks. [Ibid.]
- Along with Satan, the counterfeit of the Father, and Antichrist, the counterfeit of Jesus Christ, **the false prophet** will form the satanic false trinity. He will be the counterfeit of the Holy Spirit. The false prophet will be Antichrist’s partner in Satan’s massive final deception of the world. While Antichrist will be primarily a political and military ruler, he will also claim to be God. **The false prophet will be his high priest, the religious leader** who will lead people into the satanic religion of worshiping Antichrist. The false prophet will deify Antichrist and convince unbelievers that he is the only hope for the world’s salvation. [Ibid.]
- The ability to employ these signs and wonders is stated for the purpose of deceiving those who live on the earth. Observation of religious life, even in the era of the church, is sufficient to establish the believability of this text. **Paul observed that it was the natural tendency of people to desire the spectac-**

**ular in religious expression.** [Patterson, P. (2012). *Revelation*. (E. R. Clendenen, Ed.) (Vol. 39, pp. 280–281). Nashville, TN: B&H.]

- **The false prophet**, energized by Satan, will perform his “lying wonders” and even duplicate some of the signs performed by the two witnesses. Not content to control people through religious deceit, **the false prophet** will institute strong economic measures as well. Everybody (except believers; Rev. 20:4) will receive a special mark in order to buy or sell; but the only way to get that mark is to submit to “the beast” and worship him. Surely this is a strong allusion to the Caesar worship in the Roman Empire, but this same policy has been used by political leaders throughout history. This special mark is the name or number of “the beast”—the mystical 666. ... Bible students have been attempting for years to unravel the mystery of this name and number. Despite all man’s imaginative calculations, we must confess that no one knows the meaning of this number and name. **This much is sure: in recent years, we have seen a worldwide increase in the use of numbers for identification.** In the United States, a person’s Social Security number is indispensable. In fact, numbers are more important to computers than names! Perhaps this is an advance warning of what will happen on earth when “the beast” is in control. [Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 606). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.]

