

REVELATION REVISITED

Assignment #8 - The Deception

One cannot study end time events without coming across numerous warnings about deception. This week we will look specifically at these Bible warnings, and try to find what they might mean to us. As Adventists, we altogether too often feel that we are "deception-proof." After all, we know the true doctrines, and doesn't that protect us? As with each of our studies so far, the difficulties in this lesson may lay in how difficult it is to change the way we have thought about this subject in the past! For this study, read the following passages: Rev 13:11-18; 19:20; Matt 24:4-28; 2 Thess 2:1-12

1. How many times in Matthew 24 does Jesus warn against being misled or deceived?

2. Who was he warning? _____

3. Two types of false prophets are mentioned in Deut 13:1-11 and Deut 18:22. What is the difference between them? _____

4. Based on these passages, can a false prophet make "true" prophecies? _____

5. If so, how can you tell that they are false? Deut 13:2 _____

6. Which kind of false prophet is more deceptive? _____

7. Which kind of false prophet would be required to deceive the whole world? _____

Think about the implications of the following statements:

"Satan is preparing his deceptions that in his last campaign against the people of God, *they* may not understand that it is he."

"In the last days he will appear *in such a manner* as to make men believe him to be Christ come the second time into the world."

8. This week, ask some of your non-Adventist friends to tell you what they believe will happen in the last days, both before, during, and after the second coming of Jesus. Make a chart showing these end-time events. Is it possible that these events may come to pass? Given how important prophecy has always been to Seventh Day Adventists, what would it do to your faith to have the popular, evangelical view "fulfilled"?

A Puzzle

Fact 1. As Adventists we believe that doctrine is very important. But even more importantly, we hold that salvation only comes as a gift of God, and that it is received into our lives by faith in Jesus, and by having a living relationship with Jesus. A person might be wrong about some point of doctrine, and still be in a saving relationship with Jesus.

Fact 2. In this week's lesson we are learning of a deception that *really is* a salvation issue. Those who swallow this deception are lost. Those who reject it are saved.

The Question. How can we bring these two different views into agreement? If one can be "wrong" in terms of what he believes and still be saved, why will people be eternally destroyed for believing the lie that Satan propagates? Can 2 Thess 2:8-12 help us understand this issue?

You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:32

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

John 14:6

