

# **Prophecy: What Lies Ahead**

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## **Second Address: [False Prophets & The Rise of the Occult](#)**

Christian students of Bible prophecy are not the only ones who understand the signs of the end times and how the future will unfold. Demons of a high order, empowered by Satan, and inspiring their human subjects, are also perfectly familiar with the coming events to a large extent, and they are executing their part in God's prophetic timeline as predicted.

The very first sign that Jesus gave the disciples of His return is the rise of False Prophets and False Messiah's who will "deceive many" (Mark 13:5-6). In addition, the Bible says that "evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13). During the tribulation of the final 7 years, Revelation says that there will be a rise in the demonic after a war between the Arch Angel Michael and Satan which results in Satan and his demons being cast down to earth (Rev. 12:7-12), and the Bottomless Pit being opened (Rev. 9:1-3), resembling as Jesus calls it "the days of Noah" (Matt. 24:37; 1 Peter 3:19-20). The days of Noah were characterized by much wickedness with demons mingling and being worshipped by humans, as well as extreme sexual immorality and idolatry. Just as God poured out His wrath upon the wicked in the days of the flood, and imprisoned the demons, God will unleash His wrath using the final bowl judgements and upon Christ's return, Satan and all his demons and followers will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41).

Remember, this rise in demonic deception has been decreed and permitted by God (2 Thess. 2:9-12), and is already occurring everywhere in our society, however, most of the world is completely blind to it (2 Cor. 4:4).

While Satan worship, cults, witchcraft, magic (the occult), astrology and communicating with the spirit world have existed since the fall of man in the garden, Jesus Himself warned that false prophets, false christs and deception will be a clear sign that must accompany the other signs before He can return to the earth. These false systems will not only try to deceive, but will try to obliterate Christianity entirely. There is only one enemy of Satan, and that is Jesus Christ and His Word. We can see the signs of this occurring everywhere, and they have been increasing dramatically during the past 50 years. In Newsweek's Nov 2019 edition, an article titled "Number of witches Rises Dramatically Across US as Millennials Reject Christianity" reported that there are now 1.5 million practicing witches across the US, up from 730,000 in 2014, making them larger than the Presbyterian Church denomination. The church of Satan is growing rapidly, receiving large amounts of positive press in Canada's Global News and the BBC. A 2018 study by Pews Research found that New Age beliefs among people who identify as Christians in the US are soaring – the study reported that 33% of Christians now believe in reincarnation, 40% of "Christians" believe in psychics and 29% of Christians believe in astrology.

The world began a great movement away from the Biblical world view last century, with ideas such as evolution, a Liberal interpretation of the Bible, mass media and technology has been used to change the

moral values of society, the rise in New Age/Eastern religious spiritual teachings and practices, to now even challenging foundational moral principles of the Bible (i.e. Gen. 1:27). There are hundreds of sub-agendas disguised as single topic societal issues with a seemingly noble goal (i.e. equal rights), that are really designed to deceive the masses while continually chipping away at the Biblical world view (examples of this deception are: all religions lead to the same God, restrictions on freedom of speech and religion, etc.). The deception and lies are too detailed to discuss here, but in the past 20 years most of the values and beliefs that were almost universally accepted since the founding of the United States, have all but been abandoned and in some cases even outlawed. All while many atheist and non-Christian organizations have been publically declaring a war on Christianity.

However, many movements and New Age teachers are more subtle, claiming to believe in God and even speaking about Jesus, but they teach that all religions seek the same God and they deny foundational Biblical beliefs such as the Gospel of Christ & Christ crucified, the deity of Jesus, judgement after death, hell, righteousness by faith, creation, etc. (Gal 1:8). The Bible clearly states that anyone who denies that Jesus Christ is God and the atoning sacrifice He made on the cross, is a false prophet, and therefore has an “antichrist” spirit. The Bible tells us exactly how to test where the spirit who is proclaiming information comes from, God or Satan, and it’s an easy test:

**1 John 4:1-6** “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,** **3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist,** which you heard was coming and now is in the world already... By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (1 John 4:1-6).

So those of you who sincerely think you know God, do your spiritual teachers meet the test I just read? If your teacher doesn’t teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Bible unequivocally states that these teachers are false prophets and are actually antichrists. This may be difficult for some to accept, and may force you to re-evaluate everything you believed up to this point. Have you been experiencing the one true God of the heavens and the earth, or have you been deceived by Satan, the serpent of old (Rev. 20:2-3), who is the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4).

As the days grow darker, we can expect that the opposition to destroy Christianity will peak with the rise of the Antichrist, who ultimately will demand death from anyone unwilling to deny the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible describes him as the “beast who was and is not and yet is” (Rev. 17:8), leading some prophesy scholars to believe that He will be the reincarnation of a former evil man, such as Judas Iscariot, Antiochus Epiphanes or Nero, as example.

Last week I discussed that the Antichrist will not only lead a revived Roman Empire of 10 nations, but he will also form an alliance with someone the Bible calls the False Prophet. Many Bible scholars have observed that the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope could play a role in uniting the religions of the world into one world religion, to fulfil what the Bible calls the “Great Harlot” of Babylon. Already we see the Pope taking the Vatican to new levels of world influence in politics, while making major progress to consolidate the major religions under their leadership. Ultimately, the Bible predicts that the Antichrist

will overthrow the Great Harlot for his purpose to completely eliminate all religion and replace himself as the object of worship (2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:15).

Thank God the Bible tells us that this dark picture of the tribulation will only last a short time, and that Jesus Christ will return after 3.5 years to throw the Antichrist and the False Prophet into the Lake of Fire along with all those who were deceived by them and accepted the mark of the beast (Rev. 19:20; 14:9-11). What a glorious hope we have to know that these last days will be short and will come to end with our Lord reigning in victory with his believers for eternity.

Friends listening, are you ready to meet God? Are you prepared to face the Antichrist? Do you know the truth of the Bible to ensure you are not deceived by the Antichrist and the False Prophet? If the rapture of believers to the sky does not happen until the near the end of the tribulation, are you prepared to resist the Mark of the Beast and be prevented from buying the necessities of life? There is only way of escape, and that is through Jesus Christ. If you accept Him today as your Lord and personal Saviour, it will not matter if you go through the tribulation or if you are raptured out of it, you will be ready. Heed the warning of the prophets and “flee the wrath to come” (Matt. 3:7; Luke 3:8; 1 Thess 1:10), otherwise it will be too late. “Now is the day of salvation”. For unbelievers hearing this, it’s not enough to just understand the things I am saying, you must make a decision to accept Jesus Christ as God, admit you are sinner in need of a saviour and put your trust in Him. If you humble yourself to do this simple act of faith, you will be saved for all eternity.

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**Crossroad of Truth**

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