

FALSE MESSIANIC CLAIMS

Satan is the master deceiver! He is good at it. In the last days build up to THE Antichrist there will be many “antichrists” that completely apostatize and abandon the faith. This is indicative of “the last hour” (1 Jn. 2:18). But this will build to the ultimate time of deception in the Tribulation Period when THE Antichrist is on the scene. This is the context of Matthew 24:23-26.

Matthew 24:23–24 (NKJV)

23 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it.

24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

A false christ is someone who claims to be a special chosen one from God. False prophets falsely claim to have a message from God.

Satan at this time will be working powerfully deceptive miracles through his agents to try and draw people into his scheme of getting people to worship the Antichrist. They will claim that the Christ is here or over there and do convincing miracles as supposed proof. Jesus says, “do not believe it!”

When people are under great duress they often look for and are open to anyone that might seemingly have answers or be able to help them in that situation. And when they come performing supernatural miracles that is highly deceptive. Aren’t all miracle workers from God? Isn’t the miracle evidence enough within itself? The answer is “NO!” Satan too is sometimes allowed to do miracles.

The magicians in Pharaoh’s court, to a point, were able to imitate the miracles God did through Moses (cf. Exodus 7 & 8; 7:11, 22). There seems to have been real supernatural power from the dark side involved. Paul referenced these evil miracle workers in 2 Tim. 3:8 and indicated that their kind will be on the scene in the last days of the church age.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 (NKJV)

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

Revelation 13:13 (NKJV)

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

Evidently, there will be many false christs and false prophets working in league with Antichrist seeking to further his diabolical agenda. And they too will share in his power from the dark side – which of course is always limited by God Who is ever sovereign over all (cf. Rev. 16:14).

“The false prophets will show ‘great signs’ (semeia megala) and ‘wonders’ (terata) which should send a warning to believers today who are impressed with the ‘signs and wonders’ movement. Apparently, such phenomena are no indication that the prophets are from God or that they are representatives of the Messiah.”

– *Ed Glasscock*

Miracles by themselves (which is key) do not prove that something is of God. False prophets are not consistent with the TRUE revelation of Scripture while the true servants of God are. Discernment requires knowing our Bibles well!

Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied [claimed supernatural revelation] in Your name, cast out demons in Your name [claimed spiritual power], and done many wonders [claimed to be miracle workers] in Your name?’

23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

They seemed to be doing these things for God and yet they never truly belonged to Christ. Their lives did not match their talk. They lived double lives and yet claimed to have Christ-oriented ministries. Their name is “MANY”.

So powerful and convincing will be the “great signs and wonders” of these false christs and prophets that if it were possible they would deceive “even the elect.” What is being portrayed is a very powerful deception! Only God’s keeping power of the elect will keep them from falling for it.

However, the language here implies that it is not possible for the elect to ultimately fall for it. The elect (God's chosen people) will not be ultimately or completely deceived. In John 10:4-5 Jesus says that His true sheep will not follow a stranger "**for they do not know the voice of strangers**". Yes, true believers can stumble and fall (Ja. 3:2), but they will never completely apostatize (cf. Ps. 37:23-24).

Matthew 24:25 (NKJV)

25 See, I have told you beforehand.

Christ's prophecy serves as both a prediction that will further validate His ministry and also as a warning. When these things happen, it will serve to prove that Jesus knew what was going to happen and that all His Messianic claims were therefore all valid.

Matthew 24:26 (NKJV)

26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it.

It's like at this point with all that is going on in the world there is going to be hyper "Messianic" expectations in place. And Satan's people – Antichrist's people, will hype that "Messianic Fever" by claiming He is here, there, in the desert, or inner rooms. Lots of Messianic claims will be all over the place. Jesus says, "**do not believe it.**"

When the TRUE Christ comes at the SECOND COMING it will be totally obvious to all as Jesus goes on to say. In the meantime, all others are mere pretenders and deceivers! Salvation is through believing in the REAL Christ – the true Christ of Scripture, the Christ of prophecy Who comes in the Father's name (cf. Jn. 5:43). Do not be deceived!

2 John 9 (NKJV)

9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.