

The Great Lie

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Introduction

When the church is removed by the rapture from this world, the deceptive power of Satan will reach its apex. Those who have heard the gospel, and rejected it; and those who have heard the gospel and responded to it casually are going to be the most susceptible to "The Great Lie" because they did not have a love for the truth.

I. The next great event for planet earth

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

A. The rapture of the Church

2 Thessalonians 2:7 NIV For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

1. Thoughts on the identity of the restrainer
 - a. The Holy Spirit -- John 14:16
 - b. Governments
 - c. The church
2. The restraining influence of the church
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Withstanding satanic spirits
 - c. Setting moral standards
3. Restraints removed at the rapture of the church

B. The revelation of anti-christ

2 Thessalonians 2:8 NIV And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the

breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

II. The great lie

2 Thessalonians 2:10 NIV ...and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

- A. World is now being prepared to receive "the lie"
- B. Conditions for believing the lie
 1. A temporary "lasting" peace
 2. A false sense of security
- C. Miraculous happenings

2 Thessalonians 2:9 NIV The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

- D. The sending of a strong delusion -- Romans 1:20-32

2 Thessalonians 2:11 NIV For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie....

III. The coming condemnation

2 Thessalonians 2:12 NIV ...and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

A. The rejection of the Truth

John 14:6 NIV Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

1. Jesus Christ is the Truth
2. The choice is made
 - a. Christ (the Truth) is rejected
 - b. Delight in wickedness is chosen
- B. Condemnation and damnation is inevitable