

Revelation 13:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Analysis

The deception of earth-dwellers through signs demonstrates spiritual warfare's nature. The command to make an image recalls Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue (Daniel 3), forcing worship under threat of death. This represents state-enforced idolatry supported by religious deception. Reformed theology affirms that unregenerate hearts are vulnerable to Satan's deceptions, while the elect, though tested, cannot be ultimately deceived (Matthew 24:24). The 'wound by a sword and did live' refers to the first beast's apparent resurrection, counterfeiting Christ to attract worship. False religion always mimics truth to deceive.

Historical Context

Roman emperors erected statues demanding worship throughout the empire. Refusing to offer incense to Caesar's image brought persecution. The beast's revival (13:3) may allude to Nero's death and rumors of his return. This vision prepared Christians to recognize state-enforced idolatry supported by religious authorities as Satanic, regardless of popular acceptance.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Satan use counterfeit versions of truth (like the beast's false resurrection) to deceive people today?
2. What pressures do you face to conform to cultural 'images' demanding allegiance contrary to Christ?

Interlinear Text

καὶ πλανᾶ τοὺς κατοικοῦσιν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς διὰ τὰ
And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by
G2532 G4105 G3588 G2730 G1909 G1093 G1223 G3588
σημεῖα ὃ ἔδόθη αὐτῷ ποιῆσαι
the means of those miracles which had power he that they should make
G4592 G3739 G1325 G846 G4160

ἐνώπιον τοῦ θηρίω λέγων τοῖς κατοικοῦσιν ἐπὶ τῆς
in the sight of the beast saying to those that dwell on G3588 G2730 G1909 G3588
γῆς ποιῆσαι εἰκόνα τῷ θηρίῳ ὃ ἔχει
the earth that they should make an image of the beast which had
G1093 G4160 G1504 G2342 G3739 G2192

τὴν πληγὴν τῆς μαχαίρας, καὶ ἔζησεν
the wound by a sword And did live
G3588 G3588 G3162 G2532 G2198

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:20 (Parallel theme): And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 12:9 (Parallel theme): And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 13:8 (Parallel theme): And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 18:23 (Parallel theme): And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Revelation 14:9 (Parallel theme): And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Revelation 20:10 (Parallel theme): And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 14:11 (Parallel theme): And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 13:15 (Parallel theme): And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Revelation 15:2 (Parallel theme): And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

Revelation 16:2 (Parallel theme): And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

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