

The Role of False Religion

Revelation 13:11-18



Last Week

Revelation 12:17-13:10





Pericope (12:17-13:10) Outline

- **The dragon makes war on the saints**



Pericope (12:17-13:10) Outline

- The dragon makes war on the saints
- **The dragon gives power to the beast**



Pericope (12:17-13:10) Outline

- The dragon makes war on the saints
- The dragon gives power to the beast
- **The beast makes war on the saints**



Pericope (12:17-13:10) Outline

- The dragon makes war on the saints
- The dragon gives power to the beast
- The beast makes war on the saints
- **The earth dwellers worship the dragon and the beast**



Pericope (12:17-13:10) Outline

- The dragon makes war on the saints
- The dragon gives power to the beast
- The beast makes war on the saints
- The earth dwellers worship the dragon and the beast
- **Both the dragon and beast have a limited amount of time to make war against the saints**



Pericope (12:17-13:10) Outline

- The dragon makes war on the saints
- The dragon gives power to the beast
- The beast makes war on the saints
- The earth dwellers worship the dragon and the beast
- Both the dragon and beast have a limited amount of time to make war against the saints
- **The saints are those who have their names written in the book of life of the Lamb**



Pericope (12:17-13:10) Outline

- The dragon makes war on the saints
- The dragon gives power to the beast
- The beast makes war on the saints
- The earth dwellers worship the dragon and the beast
- Both the dragon and beast have a limited amount of time to make war against the saints
- The saints are those who have their names written in the book of life of the Lamb
- **The reality of the war against the saints means some are going to be taken captive and some will die by the sword**



Pericope (12:17-13:10) Outline

- The dragon makes war on the saints
- The dragon gives power to the beast
- The beast makes war on the saints
- The earth dwellers worship the dragon and the beast
- Both the dragon and beast have a limited amount of time to make war against the saints
- The saints are those who have their names written in the book of life of the Lamb
- The reality of the war against the saints means some are going to be taken captive and some will die by the sword
- **The 'suck of life' on the earth with the beast and dragon requires great steadfast endurance and faith in God, His Christ, the gospel, and the Bible by all the saints**

Revelation 13:11



- Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth.
- It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.

**The second beast is the third
member of the unholy trinity,
functioning like the Holy Spirit.**

Thomas Schreiner

**Dragon
Beast
Another Beast**



Unholy Trinity

Dragon	Satan	Devil
Beast from Sea	Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:3)	Antichrist (1 John 2:22, 2 John 7)
Another Beast from Land	False Prophet (Rev 16:13, 19:20)	



Unholy Trinity

Dragon (Rev. 12:3)	Beast (Rev 11:3)	Another Beast (Rev. 13:11)
Satan (Rev 2:9)	Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:3)	False Prophet (Rev 16:13, 19:20)
Devil (Rev. 2:10)	Antichrist (1 John 2:22, 2 John 7)	



We Need To Turn

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3



2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

- Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.



2 Thessalonians 2:3

- Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and **the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,**



Paul's very specific reference to a "the man of lawlessness (sin), the son of destruction" demands that the beast be more than just an empire or regime.

The beast is a man who is antichrist in everyway and empowered by Satan with extraordinary powers and abilities.

He also has a relationship with another man with a religious connection—a false prophet.



Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

**Revelation 16:13 is
where the other beast is
first called a false
prophet.**



Revelation 16:13



- And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon,
- and out of the mouth of the beast,
- and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Look Back @

Revelation 13:12



Revelation 13:12



- It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

Earth Dwellers

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

**The 2nd beast represents
the manner in which Satan
uses religion to cause
humans to worship
anything but God.**



Two Tracks

Track 1

We are aware of the reality that there are and have been many antichrists and false prophets.

Track 2

We know from Scripture that just before the return of Christ Satan will raise up an ultimate antichrist and a false prophet in one final attempt to defeat God's plan of redemption.



Matthew 7:15

- “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Matthew 24:11

- And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.



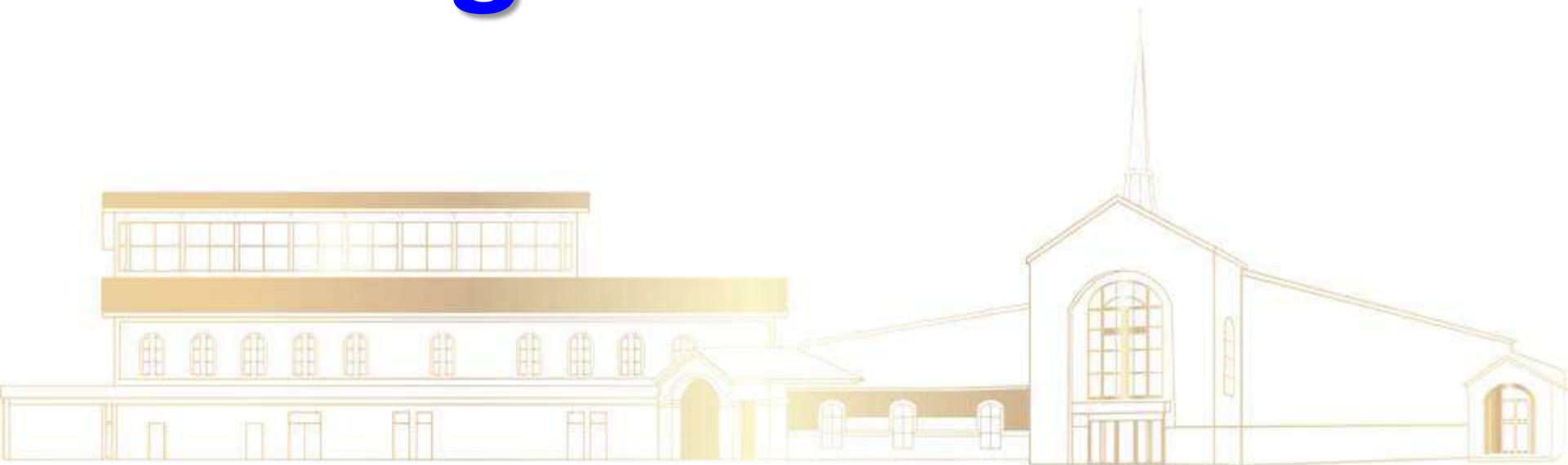
Matthew 24:24

- For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders,
- so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.



Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

**Paul says the same
thing in 2 Thess 2:9**



2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

- The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.



Let's look more closely at 2 Thess. 2:10

“For those who are perishing”

“because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”



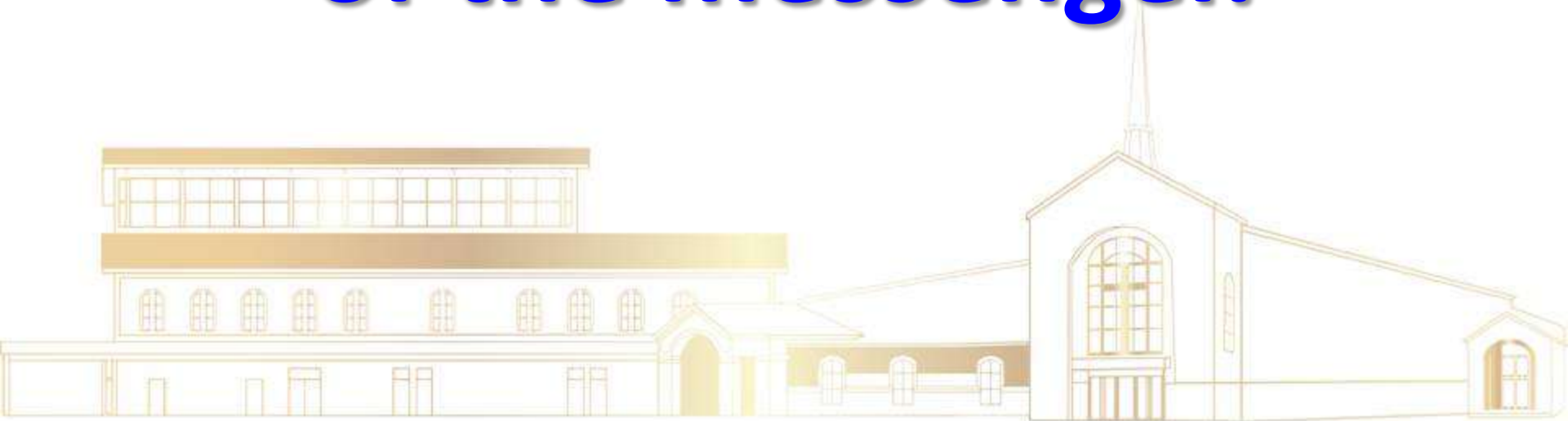
Revelation 13:13



- It [the false prophet] performs great signs,
- even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people,

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

**Signs do NOT entirely
validate the authenticity
of the messenger.**



God allowed Pharaoh's magicians to replicate many of the signs Moses and Aaron performed.

Exodus 7:22

But the magicians of Egypt **did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.**



We must look at the:

1) Message (what do they say)

2) Messenger (how do they live)



Revelation 13:14



- and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth,

Turn Back To

Deuteronomy 13:1-4



“If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’ ³ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.”



Revelation 13:14



- and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

**God permits Satan to
have such power and do
such things to test His
people. I want to pass.**



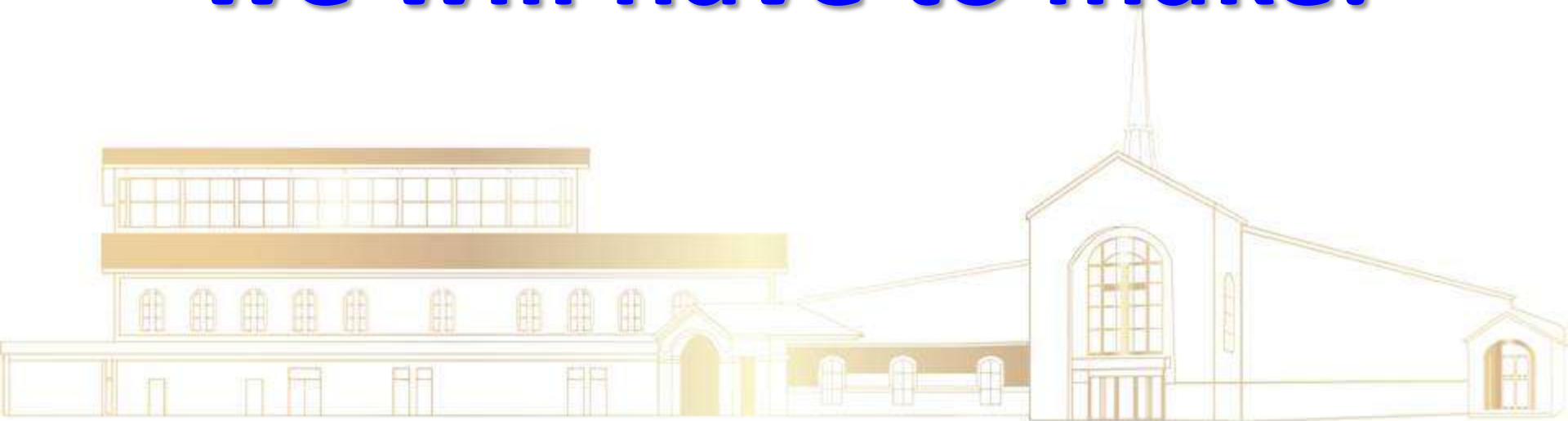
Revelation 13:15



- And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

**To live or die for
Christ—may be a choice
we will have to make.**



This is
Daniel 3
All Over Again



Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”



⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”



Look Back @

Revelation 13:16



Revelation 13:16



- Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,

No one knows if ‘marked on the right hand or the forehead’ is literally marked or a parody of the sealing with the Holy Spirit that believers receive.

In either case—the text once again draws a clear distinction between the followers Christ and the followers of the dragon.

Which are you?



Revelation 13:17



- so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

The beast will control commerce and the economy.

**V. 18 now assures us
that the false prophet
is a human being.**



Revelation 13:18



- This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

666

as opposed to

777



**Six (6) is the number of man
because man was created on the
sixth day of Creation (Gen 1:27-31).**

**Seven (7) is the number of God
because God rested on the seventh
day of Creation (Gen 2:2).**



- The week is 7 days long because God established the work 6 rest 1 pattern
- Joseph has a dream with 7 fat cows, 7 lean cows, 7 full ears of grain and 7 thin ears of grain and had 7 good years to get ready for 7 years of famine.
- No unleavened bread for 7 days.
- The lampstand in tabernacle had 7 lamps.
- Sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat 7 times.
- For seven days is the Feast of Booths.
- At the end of 7 years you shall grant a release

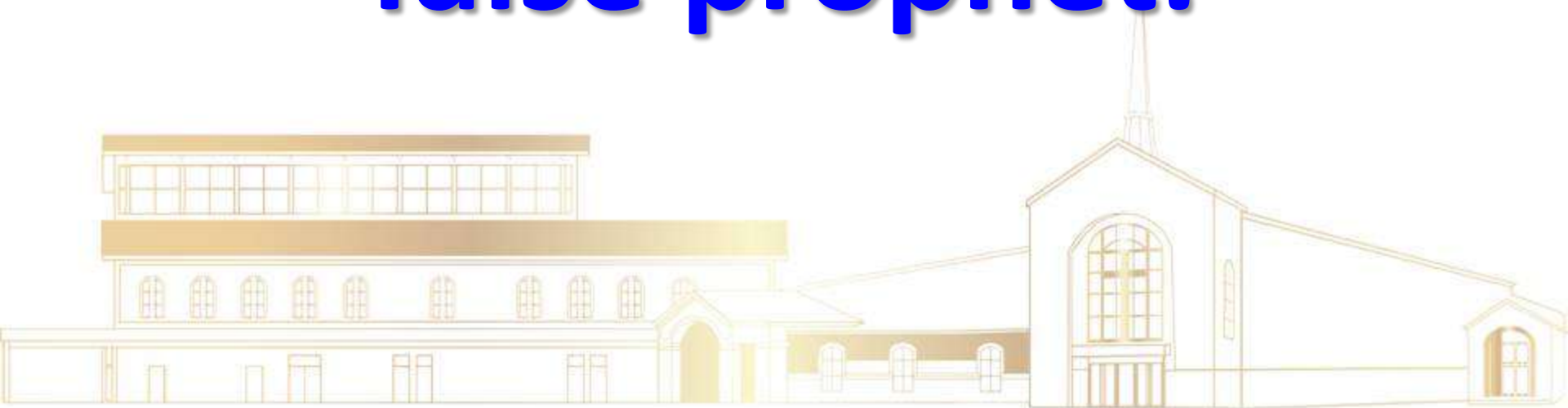


- **7 priests shall bear 7 trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the 7th day you shall march around the city 7 times.**
- **Divide the land into 7 portions.**
- **The Lord gave them into the hand of Midian for 7 years.**
- **7 thousand left in Israel who have not bowed the knee.**
- **Go and wash in the Jordan 7 times and you shall be clean.**
- **And they brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats for a sin offering for the kingdom.**



Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

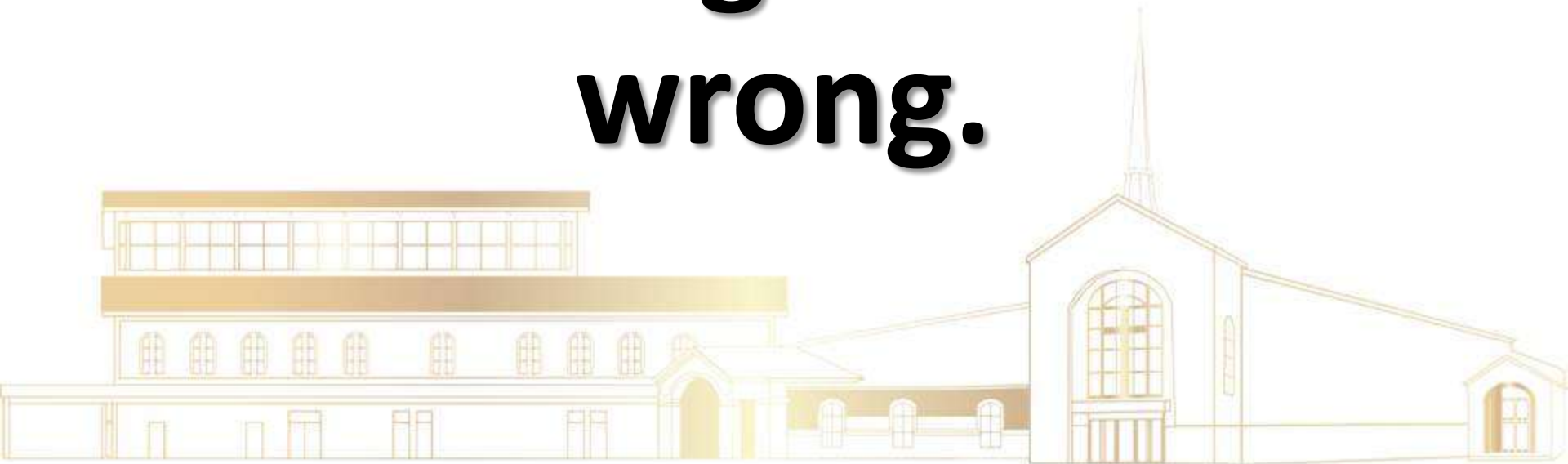
**Every Christian must
be able recognize a
false prophet.**



Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

#1

**False prophets get
something about God
wrong.**



The God of the Bible has very specific attributes that are non-negotiable:

- 1. Monotheistic Tri-unity; God is infinite and incomprehensible, yet He has chosen to reveal Himself to humanity through His only Son and the Bible.**

**A Divine Attribute:
Something True About God.**

A.W. Tozer



The God of the Bible has very specific attributes that are non-negotiable:

2. The God of the Bible is the sole Creator of the Cosmos; all things were created by Him and nothing was created that wasn't created by Him. Neither He nor His Son were created beings; the Father, Son and Spirit are all equally eternal in their existence.



The God of the Bible has very specific attributes that are non-negotiable:

3. The God of the Bible has one only one Son, namely Jesus of Nazareth—the Christ of God. This Jesus of has particular testimony revealed in the New Testament that isn't up for debate.



Jesus—He will save his people from their sins

Christ of God—God's Anointed One—that is chosen by divine election

Nazareth—Jesus' hometown, a city N of Jerusalem and W of the Sea of Galilee



The Testimony of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of God, the

1. Only Son of God	6. Lamb of God
2. Word of God	7. Savior of the World
3. Son of Man	8. One Mediator
4. Holy One of God	9. Last Adam
5. Master and Lord	10. Blessed Hope

Our Prophet, Priest, and King.



Prophet—God's ultimate, perfect and final spokesman; Jesus spoke for God

Priest—Our Great High Priest—offered His own life as the sacrifice that reconciled sinners to God

King—the King of kings—the Sovereign Ruler of the Cosmos for whom God has given all authority and an eternal kingdom.



The God of the Bible has very specific attributes that are non-negotiable:

4. The God of the Bible has particular divine attributes that are not up for debate or dissenting discussion.



God's Glorious Attributes

Self-existent	Eternal & Infinite
Self-sufficient	Omnipotent
Spiritual & Material	Omnipresent
Good & Gracious	Omniscient
Loving & Merciful	Transcendent
Righteous & Wrathful	Immutable & Free
Holy & Perfect	Consistent & Constant
True & Faithful	Sovereign Creator
Impeccable	Triune (3 in 1)

Glorious



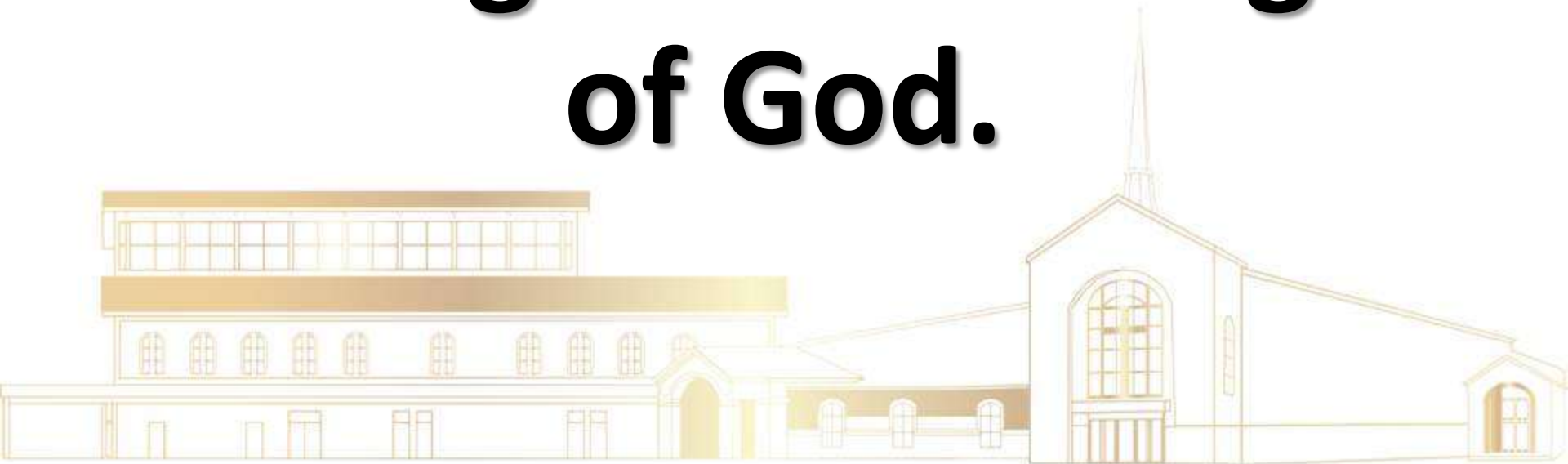
Glorious is not listed as a separate attribute because God's glory cannot be separated from any other attribute.

God's glory is the manifold and manifest beauty of all of God's attributes perfectly united in one infinitely supreme being.

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

#2

**False prophets may
change the message
of God.**



Sometimes false prophets change God's plan, purpose or message in different ways:

If the prophet gives God or humanity a different purpose for existing or changes God's plan of redemption/ salvation as revealed in the Bible s/he is a false prophet.

False prophets also change the message or Word of God with a different or heretical teaching.



Galatians 1:6–7

- I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.



Galatians 1:8–9

- ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, **let him be accursed.**



- **Is God more concerned with my earthly or eternal life?**
- **Does God exist for me or do I exist for him?**
- **Did Christ die to save me from my poverty or my sin?**
- **Is the prophet's lifestyle consistent with Christ's or the apostles?**
- **Is the prophet's message popular or does it appeal to my carnal nature?**



Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

#3

**How the prophet lives
must be examined.**



2 Corinthians 11:13–15

- For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴

And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

