

3. The possibility of counterfeit miracles

Although God is the sovereign Ruler of the universe, there are other, lesser powers at work in the world, some of which attempt to mimic and counterfeit the mighty works of God for their own evil ends. These evil powers attempt to use human beings as instruments of their purpose; and Scripture witnesses to the degree of success that they achieve.

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 -- "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

Matthew 7:22-23 -- "Many will say to He on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.' "

Matthew 24:24 -- "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect."

II Thessalonians 2:8-9 -- "And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,"

Revelation 13:11-13 -- "And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. And he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men."