The Power of Antichrist
Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2
Code: BQ32311

. . . the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness (2 Thessalonians 2:9–10)

Antichrist's great power will not be his own but will be **in accord with the activity of Satan**. *Energeia* (**activity**), the root of the English word "energy," describes power in action. It usually refers to God's power (e. g., Eph. 1:19; 3:7; Phil. 3:21; Col. 1:29; 2:12), but here it describes Satan's power. Antichrist's **power and signs and false wonders** will not only be deceptive tricks, like falsifying his own death and resurrection (Rev. 13:3, 12, 14; 17:8, 11), but also actual manifestations of Satan's supernatural power. **Power** (miracles; cf. Matt. 7:22; 11:20, 21, 23, etc.) refers to supernatural acts; **signs** point to the one who performs them; **wonders** describes the astonishing results. Antichrist's miracles will reveal his supernatural power and create wonder, shock, and astonishment. *Pseudos* (**false**) modifies all three terms; Antichrist's miracles, signs, and wonders are **false** not in the sense that they are fakery but that they lead to false conclusions about who he is. They will cause people to believe the lie that he is a divine being and worship him. John saw that Antichrist's deluded followers "worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?' " (Rev. 13:4; cf. (vv. 12–15). Antichrist will mislead the world **with all the deception … wickedness** has at its disposal; he will muster all of evil's undiluted, unrestrained, seductive power to tempt the world to give him unprecedented influence over it.

Antichrist's malevolent, deceptive, deadly influence will extend to all **those who perish.** Only God's elect will not be taken in (Matt. 24:24). The unregenerate, being children of the arch-liar Satan (John 8:44), will inevitably fall for the lies of his emissary (cf. 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:3–4). Through him, Satan will deceive the whole world (Rev. 12:9); all those who "[receive] the mark of the beast and those who [worship] his image" (Rev. 19:20; cf. 2 Cor. 4:4).

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