

✕ Are the Miracles of the Antichrist (His 'Resurrection') & the False Prophet Genuine?

This question has been on my mind for a while. We see in Revelation 13 the false prophet will perform many "great signs" beginning at the mid-point of the tribulation pointing people to worship the Antichrist..

Revelation 13:13-15 NASBS

He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. [14] And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. [15] And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

The plain and natural reading seems to indicate these could be real signs, especially because it says multiple times "it was given to him" (meaning God would grant these miracles as a judgment against the unbelieving world during the tribulation), but we must consider this in light of all of scripture.

•As for unbelievers performing "signs" in scripture, we turn to Exodus 7..

Exodus 7:11-12 NASBS

Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts. [12] For each one threw down his staff and they turned into serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

The question is the same here. Were these legitimate acts or sleight of hand? Most scholars lean to the latter including John MacArthur..

the wise men, sorcerers, and magicians demonstrated their abilities to perform a similar feat. Whether by optical illusion, sleight of hand, or learned physical manipulation of a snake, all sufficiently skillful enough to totally fool Pharaoh and his servants, or by evil supernaturalism, the evaluation given in the inspired record is simply "they also ... did the same." However, the turning of rods into snakes, and later turning water into blood (7:22) and calling forth frogs (8:7), were not the same as trying to create gnats from inanimate dust (8:18-19). At that point, the magicians had no option but to confess their failure. (MacArthur Study Bible)

He does mention the possibility of "evil supernaturalism", but concluding sleight of hand or manipulation.

And we could consider Simon the Sorcerer ..

Acts 8:9-11 NASBS

Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; [10] and they all, from

smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God." [11] And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts.

Whatever magic arts he was performing were convincing enough to cause the people to believe he had the "Power of God".

Acts 8:13 NASBS

Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

But as you can see Simon "converted" (you see later it was a false conversion) likely because he saw actual miracles occurring and was "amazed" by them (showing what he was doing wasn't real).

And regarding the "death & resurrection" of Antichrist in the tribulation, we see the same attitude of those who were deceived by Simon ..

Revelation 13:3-4 NASBS

I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; [4] .. and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"

•The following texts show only God has creative miracle power..

John 9:33 NASBS

"If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." (speaking of Jesus healing the man blind from birth)

As the dispute over this healing carried on, the following evaluation was made ..

John 10:21 NASBS

Others were saying, "These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?"

•I think the clearest biblical evidence these will not be real miracles but manipulation is found here ..

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10 NASBS

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; [9] that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and *false wonders*, [10] and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

This is referring to the mid-point of the tribulation when Antichrist turns on Israel, sits in their newly rebuilt temple and claims to be God: the entry point of the false prophet. In v9 it refers to "false wonders" and v10 "deception".

•So I think we can rightly conclude these tribulation wonders performed by the false prophet & the death/resurrection of Antichrist not be true miracles or a true resurrection, but deceptions. But those deceptions will be convincing and powerful: to the point they would even deceive tribulation saints if possible ..

Matthew 24:24 NASBS

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

Praise the Lord He will protect them and the soon to follow believing Jewish remnant from those delusions and from taking the mark of the beast the false prophet demands !!