

## The Three Eternal Destinies #136 *Deceiving the Nations, Part 3*

### Led Astray

Rev 12:9 and 18:23 — TO BE LED ASTRAY in this present age means that man is *no born* into this life already *led astray* and that Adam and Eve did not fall *condemned* to an eternal death without a remedy by their own obedience to their own conscience. Then all men would be sons of disobedience for whom the eternal Lake of Fire is reserved. But Mt 25:41 was intended for Satan who is a liar, deceiver, murderer – as those also who became his sons (Jn 8:44; Rev 21:8).

Can you imagine, as Rev 13:14 or 2 Ths 2:9-12 describes, that Satan wants all mankind to go to Rev 14:10-11? We see that mankind is deceived even as they will be after the millennial reign of Messiah (Rev 19:20; 20:10; 20:3,8,9). In this age he desires to lead as many as possible astray from the everlasting covenant of conscience, and if possible deceiving the very elect of God (Mt 24:24).

The word *deceive* is #4105. It means to be made to or to cause to stray off the course. What course? The course of conscience spelled out in Gen 3:16-19 and 9:1-7. To be led astray from this set course which would lead to a second life is to be led into the same consequence as Satan's sin led him (Mt 25:41). But to overcome his influence by staying true to Gen 3:16-19 and 9:1-7, as Isa 24:5 says, is to inherit the second life of the righteous in Rev 22:11-12. Lk 21:8 and 2 Cor 11:2-4 – In the last days greater deception will come to the elect to try to lead them astray from the New Covenant with Messiah (Dan 11:32).

But Mt 25:46 says not *all* are the sons of disobedience who are in the world. Rev 12:9 says Satan's *goal* is to lead the whole world astray any way he can (Rev 18:23; 20:3,8), to his own eternal destiny (verse 10). This is the place which was prepared only for him and his angels (Mt 25:41), and those whom he deceives or leads astray from obeying *their* own conscience.

To *lead astray* – look up the definition of both words. In Rev 12:9 or 20:3,8 the word is not just to deceive, but to lead astray from His ultimate purpose of a second, eternal life. Satan deceived Eve and both her and Adam ate of the forbidden fruit and received the first death sentence – they and their offspring. But their death sentence was not the second death sentence as was Satan's (Mt 25:41; Rev 20:10; 19:20; Rev 14:10, 11; 19:3). So Satan's job now is to lead man astray from his path of life given him in Gen 3:16. If Satan had *led* Adam and Eve astray in the garden to the second death sentence or the same death sentence as *his* in Mt 25:41, he would be *through with leading man astray*. Satan wanted to take all mankind to his very own destiny.

So *neither* God nor Satan was through with man. Satan, down through history, has tenaciously endeavored to lead mankind astray a *second time* to a second death since Satan's first deception of man was only to a first death. But even Satan himself knew the character of God. God is righteous and loving and kind. That is, in His wrath He remembers mercy, as in Gen 18:25. Although Satan knew what God said to Adam and Eve, he was a liar, a deceiver, and a murderer. He knew what he would have to do to keep on destroying God's ultimate purpose for men and the universe.

In Gen 3:14-19 God had in mind, in His predetermined purpose, two remedies for man after the fall to save him from eternal death:

- a. Conscience
- b. The Blood of Messiah (Rev 5:9).

That is, His death in man's place, defeating Satan, thereby bringing to fruition Rev 21 and 22 and Gen 1:26-28, to fill the universe with His image. So, Rev 12:9 as Rev 20:3,8, teaches us that Satan did not achieve his *goal* when he *deceived* Eve and led them astray from God's intended purpose for them. They were to rule and fill the earth with God's image and likeness and then to the outer reaches of the universe (Ps 8:4-8).

Since Rev 12:9 says what it does, and Rev 12:12 as well as Rev 20:3 is 6000 years later than the fall, and Rev

20:8 is 7000 years later, it is clear Satan will not achieve his ultimate purpose that he set out to do. But God will (Mt 25:34,41,46; Rev 21:3,4,12; 22:6).

In Mt 25:34 God accomplishes *His* original purpose for the *nations*. Remember God created the *nations* before He created *Israel*. Adam was before Abraham. Was Seth depraved out of his mind, or was Calvin? So why is Satan at this very moment in history still trying to lead the world astray or deceive the whole world if they are already *depraved* and the Lake of Fire is reserved and prepared for all fallen mankind? Because he knows that man was only sentenced to the *first death* (Heb 9:27), so he set out to *deceive* man once more and lead him astray from the Everlasting Covenant (Isa 24:5), which is Gen 3:16-19, to the second death sentence.

Satan almost achieved his goal as we see in Gen 6:5. He used the sons of Cain to lead astray the sons of Seth, which he almost did entirely, except for eight people in all. By Noah and his family God could begin again with *fallen* man to extend the Everlasting Covenant to a *righteous* (still righteous and not depraved) people in Gen 9:1-7. But as we see in Biblical history, Satan began again to lead the sons of Noah astray from this extended everlasting covenant.