



## **Matthew 24:24**

(24) For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and they shall present great signs and wonders, in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

## **Deuteronomy 13:1-5**

(1) "If a prophet rises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, (2) And the sign or the wonder which he foretold to you comes to pass, saying, 'Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them,' (3) You shall not hearken 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. (5) And that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death because he has spoken to turn *you* against the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slaves, to thrust you out of the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put the evil away from the midst of you.

## **Matthew 7:22-23**

(22) Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name? And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?' (23) And then I will confess to them, 'I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness.'

## **Revelation 13:13-14**

(13) And he performs great wonders, so that he even causes fire to come down to the earth from heaven in the sight of men. (14) And he deceives those who dwell on

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the earth by means of the wonders that were given to him to perform in the sight of the beast, saying to those who dwell on the earth that they should make an image for the beast, which had the wound by the sword, yet was alive.

*A Faithful Version*

In each case, Christ's admonition is that we should have a healthy skepticism of [miracles](#) because miracles may produce deception. It is not that the miracle does not occur. The more important point is, does it witness to the [truth](#)? Does it witness to the ultimate reality, the will of God?

In both [Jesus](#)' instruction in the New Testament ([Matthew 24:24](#); [7:22-23](#); [Revelation 13:13-14](#)) and in [Moses](#)' teaching in the Old Testament ([Deuteronomy 13:1-5](#)), it is clear—regardless of the wonder done—if a person even implies that we are free to disobey [God](#), the miracle is not a demonstration of God's truth. A miracle it was, but it does not validate God's truth.

We must be especially skeptical of those who say that they believe in keeping God's laws, and then turn right around and say that the [Sabbath](#) and holy days are no longer necessary and that "true Christians" can keep [Christmas](#), [Easter](#), [Halloween](#), etc. But they "believe" that they are to keep God's laws! It is especially deceptive because so many of such people are really nice individuals.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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