

Two ways to view 2 Thessalonians 2:4 “shewing himself that he is God.”

1. The son of perdition shows everyone that he is God. He deceives others into believing it.
2. The son of perdition shows *himself* that he is God. He deceives himself into believing it.
 - Without a final authority, we are prone to deceive ourselves.
 - This also is the mystery of iniquity.
 - How can we be blind to our own sin when others can see it clearly in us?
 - The Pharisees were blind to their own sin and said, “We see” (John 9:41).

A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF SELF-DECEPTION FROM THE LIFE OF AHAB

1 Kings 22:1-4 Ahab, the king of Israel requests Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah to go to battle with him against the Syrians to take back Ramothgilead. (1 Kings gives the historical account from man’s viewpoint).

2 Chronicles 18 Chronicles gives God’s viewpoint of the historical account.

Verse 1: Jehoshaphat “**joined affinity with Ahab.**” (2 Cor. 6:14-15, this is a wrong yoke-fellow)

Verse 3: Jehoshaphat says to Ahab, “**I am as thou art.**” This is happening in the churches today. Christians try to convince the world “we’re just like you!” In fact, you can’t tell the difference in most churches because they’ve adopted worldly music, worldly dress, and worldly standards.

Verse 4: Jehoshaphat says to Ahab, “**We will be with thee in the war...Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.**” That’s the wrong order! He made his decision BEFORE enquiring of the LORD.

- Don’t go sin and then ask the pastor if it was okay.
- Don’t commit the sin and THEN see what the Bible says about it. Allow the Bible to PREVENT you from sinning in the first place.
- Don’t make decisions and then seek God’s approval. Seek God’s will FIRST, and then you’ll make the right decision. (Matthew 6:33, Proverbs 3:5-6)

Verse 5: Ahab enquires of his 400 prophets of Baal. They all gave the king the same advice: “**Go up; for God will deliver it into the king’s hand.**” They all preached a “*positive message*” that was in agreement with the majority of religious leadership.

Verse 6: Jehoshaphat is not satisfied. He knows those 400 prophets don't know the LORD. He asks for "a prophet of the LORD." In this action he openly accused 400 men of being fakers, and therefore unreliable.

Verse 7: Ahab does know one "prophet of the LORD," but he hates him. Why does he hate him? Because he always tells the truth. He always points out Ahab's sin and gives counsel that goes against his desires. In other words, "He always preaches NEGATIVE." This is the mystery of iniquity: why do people turn against the preacher who's trying to help them out of their ungodly ways and get right with God?

Verses 10-11: The prophets preach a prosperity message to two rich kings. That's a prediction that can't fail!

Verse 12: Micaiah, the prophet of God is asked to give a positive message like the other prophets.

Verse 13: Micaiah informs them that his final authority is whatever God SAYS. He's not going to lie to please the crowds.

Verses 14-15: Micaiah mocks the false prophets by lying to the king. The king KNOWS he's lying because he knows that the 400 prophets are LIARS. He didn't confront them with THEIR lies because he wants to be lied to. But curiosity brings him to command Micaiah to tell him what God really said.

- When you first look for a church, it's because you want to get some help for your life. If you want that church to tell you your life is fine the way it is, it's not going to help you.

Verses 16-17: Micaiah gives the kings the truth. It's not good news. It's a negative message. It angers King Ahab. The truth OFTEN angers sinners. The purpose of proclaiming the truth is to save their lives, but it is often received as an insult.

Verses 18-23: Micaiah reveals how God sent a lying spirit to cause Ahab's prophets to prophesy lies. The preaching of the truth caused the false prophet Zedekiah to smite Micaiah on the cheek. False preachers hate those who preach truth.

Verses 24-26: King Ahab punishes the prophet of God for not approving of his sin.

Verse 29: The decision of Ahab to disguise himself before going to battle PROVES that he knows Micaiah was telling the truth about his defeat. You can't hide your sin from God.

Verses 30-34: The kings go out to battle. Jehoshaphat is almost killed when he is misidentified as Ahab. The enemy only wants to kill Ahab. A soldier shoots an arrow blindly up in the air and it hits Ahab, mortally wounding him. Ahab dies for his disobedience to the Word of the LORD (Job 36:12).

Ahab is responsible for his untimely death, not the preacher of truth, not God, not the false prophets. The wages of sin is death. If Ahab would have repented of his sin and obeyed the word of God, he wouldn't have died that day.

Don't deceive yourself into thinking God's Word doesn't apply to you. It will cost you dearly.
