

Vicarious Sacrifice: Review: Revelation 13:1 cf. the Addition of Revelation 12:18 & the Application of Mankind's Number in Revelation 13:16–17; the Historical Trends in the Church Age Are Intensified in the Tribulation, 1 Thess 2:7–12; Recovery from Historical Downtrends Hindered by Suppression of Truth

- (20) Paul not only summarizes the status of man's delusions at the Rapture, but alerts us that such is in the formative stages in our present moment of history.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 - The mystery of lawlessness is already operational [**intensification of the Invisible War**]; and the one who now restrains [**the Holy Spirit**] will continue that ministry of restraint until He is taken out of the way [**at the Rapture**].

2 Thessalonians 2:8 - Then that lawless one will be revealed [**the Beast-Dictator**] whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming [**2d Advent**];

v. 9 - whose presence in history shall be according to the modus operandi of Satan, with all power, and by means of miracles, and false wonders [**unbelievers fooled by false miracles**],

v. 10 - and by means of all deception of unrighteousness to those who are being led astray because they have not received the love of the truth in order that they might be saved.

v. 11 - For this reason God shall send them a deluding influence so that they might believe the lie,

v. 12 - in order that they all may be judged because they have not believed the truth, but took pleasure in unrighteousness. (EXT)

- (21) Laboratory experiments are presently being conducted in client nation America in the field of "deception of unrighteousness."
- (22) This is advanced by a growing disinterest in the teachings of the Bible. Christianity is especially under assault as being unloving, strict, critical, judgmental, bigoted, intolerant, and inflexible.
- (23) But when a culture is involved in historical downtrends, it is the prohibitions of Scripture that must be proclaimed in order to stimulate a general rehabilitation of thought.
- (24) The manipulators of acceptable thought suppress as intolerant those biblical principles that maintain the general order of society, but then pass human laws to restrain or punish the predictable result.
- (25) Once sinful behavior is made acceptable, it always culminates in ramifications that then have to be addressed.
- (26) Only truth can overcome erroneous thought and behavior, but Progressivism is only able to compound the problem with human-viewpoint solutions that eventuate into evil.