The False Prophet.

The Antichrist will rise to power but he will not be alone, he will be accompanied by a person called the "False Prophet," a worldwide spiritual person who will control and provide signs and miracles which will deceive the world and give world power to the Antichrist.

John is standing upon the sand of the seas when he sees the first Beast rise up from out of the sea, which represents the people, this is the Antichrist, John sees another Beast rise from out of the earth, this is to be known as the False Prophet.

We must note that both beasts originate from the earth, the Antichrist from out of the seas, the people of the world while the False Prophet comes from the earth, neither come from heaven and must be human, not angelic beings, they therefore must both receive their power from Satan.

Revelation 13:11-15.

"11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

John is using symbols to explain the evilness of th False Prophet, it appears that he will initially appear with a humble but attractive personality, he will combine politics and religion with careful but subtile words, giving very convincing arguments so that the people believe him, thus he will be able to control the peoples minds with his speeches.

With the addition of Satan we now have the false, unholy trinity of Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Authority comes from Satan to the Antichrist, the False Prophet receives his power via the Antichrist and is enabled to lead the people to worship the Antichrist.

In addition to having the ability to lead the minds of the people with his words, the False Prophet will be able to demonstrate and use the great power given to him, produce great signs and wonders, so with the words and signs he is able to quickly deceive the people of the world, using the power which was being given through the Antichrist, who gets his power from Satan, the Dragon, Revelation 13:2-8.

The False Prophet is able to copy Elisha's action by calling fire from heaven, possibly he is pretending to be Elijah. He will later create an image in the Jewish temple, what it will look like we are not told but could be made to be an image of the Antichrist,

Revelation 13:14.

This image will be able to breath and speak,

Revelation 13:15.

This action must be accomplished by demonic power.

This indicates that Satan has the power to work real miracles, they are not tricks,

read Matthew 24:24.

We are not told much about the False Prophet in the scriptures except that he is a religious leader of some sort and has the ability to perform these miraculous signs. This power, we are told, comes from Satan via the Antichrist. These powerful demonstrations convince the world to follow and ultimately worship the Antichrist, they believe that he must be the world leader that they have been searching for. Revelation 13:1FF.

lists some features associated with the False Prophet:-

- 1) There is no identity of which nation False Prophet comes from, he appears to be a some sort of a religious leader. Some think he must be Jewish, as the two horns suggest a lamb, a 'false sacrifice,' but seeing the Anti-Semitic behaviour and actions later by the Antichrist, it is unlikely. The two horns indicate that he appears to be gentle and timid, yet spake as a "dragon," like Satan.
- 2) verse 11 Rises from the earth.

- 3) verses 11,12 Controlled and motivated by Satan.
- 4) verse 12 Controls world religion.
- 5) verse 12 Encourages worship of the Antichrist.
- 6) verse 13,14 Is able to perform great miracles and signs.
- 7) verse 14 Full of lies and falsehoods and so is able to deceive the people of the world.
- 8) verse 15 Has the power to make the image of the beast behave as if alive and to speak, then it appears to have the ability and power to kill any who do not worship it.
- 9) verse 16 The False Prophet creates some sort of identity for those who have worshipped the Image, a "Mark" or possibly a electronic device, connected somehow with the number 666. Using this identity mark he is able to control the economy, because without this "Mark of Identity" that person will not be allowed to work or purchase food etc.

The words used in the original scripture for the two "Beasts" has the same meaning, "one of a kind," indicating that they are very similar in attitude and behaviour.

For the Antichrist to appear the world must be prepared in two ways, the Rapture must occour first, this is when all the millions of True Believers are removed from the earth into heaven, secondly, the Holy Spirit's controlling action against Satan is removed from the earth. Satan will be allowed a free hand with those left on the earth. The Holy Spirit will still be bringing salvation to any who ask for it.

The Work and Political power of the False Prophet

The main task of the False Prophet will be to make the Antichrist and become an acceptable and a credible world leader, to deceive the world into worshipping the Antichrist. We are not told much about the work of this "beast" but there are many other scriptures about "false prophets."

In Revelation 17 we are told about a very specific woman with the title, "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. We are told that she is "drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: " so it is obviously some religious, anti-church system which will be controlled by the False Prophet. A copy of the True Church, which is now in heaven, but hating for all that it stood for, hating the Christian teaching, forgiveness and the worship of God. John tells us that the False Prophet will introduce sweeping economic plans for the world. Revelation 13:16,17.

"16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

No one will be allowed to trade in any way without this license Mark. Anyone who refuses to worship the Image and so accept the Mark will not be allowed to buy or sell anything.

With the addition of Satan we now have the false, unholy trinity of Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Authority comes from Satan to the Antichrist and the False Prophet leads the people to worship the Antichrist.

What is the location of the Antichrist and False Prophet?

There is some disagreements over this information, the scriptures refer and seem to indicate that the Antichrist will be based at a city called Babylon.

Babylon has existed for many thousand years, records show back to 2300 B.C., and was possibly the location which was involved with the Tower of Babel.

It stood on the banks of the river Euphrates, which flowed through the middle of the city and so divided it into two almost equal parts. The city was about 200 miles above where the river Euphrates joined the river Tigris. Babylon was the capital and it gradually grew in extent and grandeur, but in the process of time it became controlled by Assyria.

On the fall of the Assyrian city of Nineveh (606 B.C.) Babylon became free off the Assyrian control and became the capital of the now growing Babylonian Empire. Under the leadership of Nebuchadnezzar it

became one of the most greatest and splendid cities of the ancient world. It eventually ceased to be the capital of an empire, over the years it was attacked again and again by the visiting enemy armies, ultimately the inhabitants were driven from the city, and so the original city became a complete desolation, the location and site being forgotten about. However, 1 Peter 5:13 *The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son. indicates that there was a town called Babylon. Was this the original Babylon in some form? Recently some attempts have been made to rebuild the main city of Babylon by the now deposed leader of Iraq.*

Against this idea that the Bible is talking about a rebuilt Babylon we find scriptural references which appear to be associated with the Roman Empire, now the European Union, and the city from which the Antichrist will rule is built upon seven mountains, which points to Rome, which was very much involved with the old Roman Empire and the formation of the now European Union.

Revelation 17:8-13.

"8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. 9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast."

Time will answer this problem, but it is more important that you were part of the Rapture and now in heaven with our Lord.

Beware of false Prophets.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12.

- "3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
- 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.
- 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
- 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.
- 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.
- 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
- 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
- 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
- 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Matthew 7:15.

"15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

2 Timothy 4:2-4.

- "2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall

they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

Ephesians 4:14.

"14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

2 Peter 2:1-3

- "I But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
- 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
- 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.
- 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;
- 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:
- 8(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)
- 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:
- 10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.
- 11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.
- 12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;
- 13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceiving's while they feast with you;
- 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:
- 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;
- 16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.
- 17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever."

2 Timothy 3:10-17.

- "10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,
- 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.
- 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
- 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.
- 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;
- 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The Babylon mentioned in <u>1 Pet. 5:13</u> was not Rome, as some have thought, but the literal city of Babylon, which was inhabited by many Jews at the time Peter wrote.

In Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, "Babylon" is possibly supposed to mean Rome, it was not considered as pagan, but as the prolongation of the ancient power in the papal form. Rome, pagan and papal, is regarded as one power. "The literal Babylon was the beginner and supporter of tyranny and idolatry... This city and its whole empire were taken by the Persians under Cyrus; the Persians were subdued by the Macedonians, and the Macedonians by the Romans; so that Rome succeeded to the power of old Babylon. And it was her method to adopt the worship of the false deities she had conquered; so that by her own act she became the heiress and successor of all the Babylonian idolatry, and of all that was introduced into it by the immediate successors of Babylon, and consequently of all the idolatry of the earth. "Rome," or "mystical Babylon," is "that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth" (Rev. 17:18).