(1)   A few concepts found in these two verses need to be amplified. Please note that the Beast-Dictator does not arise on the public scene until after the Rapture of the Church and during the Tribulation.

(2)   The "lawless one" is empowered by Satan. He is Satan-possessed and is enabled to perform what appear to be miraculous acts but which are deceptions to those who do not have a "love of the truth."

(3)   Those who reject the truth must subsequently believe the lie which the Beast-Dictator is capable of deceptively communicating to the ignorant masses whose souls are susceptible to manipulation.

(4)   Impending events that are converging presently throughout the world are harbingers of desperate times in the not too distant future. Consequently, people in certain religious circles are suggesting that the Rapture is about to occur soon.

(5)   Well it may be since its occurrence remains imminent but only the Lord knows the timing and world events have nothing to do with its arrival. There have been catastrophic times that have had worldwide impact throughout history, yet we continue to move through the Church Age.

(6)   Nevertheless, it must be recognized that when the Rapture does occur, the Beast-Dictator will be alive and well somewhere within the geographic boundaries of the old Roman Empire, a fact established by Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 9:26: "the people (Romans) of the prince who is to come (the Beast-Dictator) will destroy the city and the sanctuary (Titus in A.D. 70)."

(7)   Since the resurrection of Christ, Lucifer has been planning for the rebuttal phase of his appeal trial which begins following the Rapture of the Church. In the Tribulation he will desperately try to override the testimonies of Church Age believers. He will seek to do this by violence in order to establish the kingdom he proclaimed in Isaiah 14:14, "I will be like the Most High."