

**ALL THE DECEPTION
OF
WICKEDNESS**

"See to it that no one misleads you." Matthew 24:4

Preface

One of the most prevalent and consistently mentioned characteristics of the end times is deception. Jesus warns against being misled and Paul states in 2 Thessalonians 2 that the man of sin comes with all the deception of wickedness. John confirms this in Revelation 13.

When describing the sign of His return, the first thing Jesus said was, "See to it that no one misleads you." He describes a time of false doctrine coming from those who claim to be believers as well as the eventual appearance of false prophets who deceive using signs and wonders. Concerning the deception of the last days, Jesus said in Matthew 24, "Behold, I have told you in advance." If He makes it a point of emphasis then so should we.

After the truth was preached to all the nations, the first seal was opened and the beast was released from the abyss. He has set out to conquer through lies and deception which will serve as a test to see who truly loves God.

"If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul." Deuteronomy 13:1-3

Who has taken to heart and acted on the teachings of Jesus? Who has renewed their minds in the truth of God's word? How people respond to the false prophet will be revealing. Jesus is coming back for those who belong to Him.

Lies and Deception

We know from 2 Thessalonians 2 that the man of sin is coming with **all** the deception of wickedness. This indicates that all of the spiritual forces of wickedness will be involved. They are essentially "all in" in an effort to achieve their ultimate objective through manipulation, lies, and deception.

The Ultimate Objective

Satan and his angel's ultimate objective is to prevent their eventual demise of being cast into the lake of fire. Ezekiel 28 tells that when he first sinned, Satan was cast down from the mountain of God. Revelation 12 tells us that his descent continues when he and his angels are cast out of heaven down to earth. End time prophecy describes those days and how he plans to retain the dominion over the earth that he usurped from Adam and Eve.

God has revealed that Satan's plan is to set a snare for God's elect and then elevate the man of sin to a place of global dominion who will then spring the trap and proceed to wage war against God's elect. His plan is summarized at the end of Revelation 12 where he tries to destroy the Jews (the elect through race), and when that fails, he attacks believers (the elect through grace).

And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*. But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. Revelation 12:13-14,17

It's interesting to note that Satan, the **dragon**, is the one who is doing the persecuting and that the false prophet is also described as **speaking like a dragon** in Revelation 13:11. Combine that with Revelation 13:2 and it's reasonable to conclude that Satan gives his power and authority to the angelic ten-horned beast and then enters the false prophet where he works in tandem with that beast to perform amazing signs and wonders to deceive the world and persecute God's elect.

False Doctrine

When the first seal was opened, the beast was released from the abyss and Satan's plan to retain dominion over the earth was set in motion. It is an unprecedented time in history because truth is under an all-out assault. Jesus warns that there will be false teachers in those days that claim to be believers but will mislead many.

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24:5

This is not a reference to false messiahs claiming to be Jesus, but rather people who come in Jesus' name and confess that He is the Christ but they teach a false doctrine. It wouldn't make any sense to come in someone else's name and then claim to be that person. This is a reference to those who come in Jesus' name and have compromised the truth by preaching only a partial gospel or by weaving lies into their teachings because of their desire for the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9b-10

There is a reason that Paul prefaced that passage the way he did. He knew that the fallibility of human reasoning and emotion made people vulnerable to justifying their sins rather than continuing to fight against the flesh. The deception of the last days will appeal to the fallible flesh and reveal who worships God in spirit and truth and who does so only as a pretense.

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Galatians 5:24-25

2 Timothy 3 says that people will be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God as they hold to **a form of** godliness but deny its power. They will not endure sound doctrine but instead will find false teachers who tickle their ears. This characteristic is becoming increasingly prevalent. Take heed and don't be deceived.

Signs and Wonders

Eventually the deception will move beyond the teaching of false doctrine and will include false Christs who perform signs and wonders. We haven't seen this yet but it will take deception to a whole different level.

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24

We don't know exactly what these great signs and wonders are going to be but they will be seen as a validation of the lies being put forth. Although unknown at this point, I think that we can conjecture as to the nature of the deceiving signs and wonders based on what people are being conditioned to accept.

Over the past century or so there has been a gradual change in the perception of extraterrestrial life. What used to be largely dismissed as fiction has become generally accepted as possible. With shows that advocate the existence of extraterrestrial life and reports of new earth-like planets being discovered, people start viewing that possibility as a probability. Throw in the concepts of wormholes and portals from science fiction and the appearance of advanced extraterrestrial life on earth doesn't sound like a very far-fetched idea anymore.

I see the false Christs and false prophets who perform great signs and wonders as manifestations of evil spirit beings from another realm, the spiritual realm, not from another planet. Whether they take on a human form or actually enter a human and use them as a channel isn't clear but they are able to manipulate the natural realm in ways that aren't understood by the people of the world. This will create a perception of their superiority for the purpose of validating their message and deceiving people into believing what they say.

I can envision a scenario where these false prophets claim to be the leaders of their respective planets and have come to Earth, along with **the** false prophet, to straighten things out; and that they point to the failure of the prophet Jesus to rule his planet as the reason. It also wouldn't surprise me if there were ten of them, and if Judas reemerged to help "set the record straight". He **is** referred to as the son of perdition after all.

Whether it's that or something like it, it will support the narrative that God's elect, the Jews and Christians, must for some reason be done away with. In the above scenario it could involve their role in, or association with, the "failure". We really won't know until it happens.

Do Not Be Deceived

Jesus has told us ahead of time what we can expect to encounter as the day of His return draws near and how we can discern the nearness of that day.

Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door. Matthew 24:32-33

In addition to becoming familiar with the characteristics of His return, we need to keep our distance from the things of the world so that we can remain vigilant. Knowledge alone is not enough.

Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. Luke 21:34-35

Those who put into practice the teachings of Jesus will be able to discern between good and evil and persevere through great tribulation.

But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. Hebrews 5:14

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock." Matthew 7:24-25

Those who hear and ignore His words are the deceived.

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. James 1:22

"Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall." Matthew 7:26-27