

END TIMES DECEPTION – Part 1

By Abri Brancken, 8 Jul 2018

I am going to ask you to pay close attention as this topic is very important.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus gathered with some of His disciples on the Mount of Olives and explained to them events that will take place during the end times. He gave them signs of the End of the Age.

Mat 24:3-5, MKJV

And as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said to them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am Christ, and will deceive many.

One of the first things Jesus warned his disciples about when it comes to the last days is “deception”.

He is not casually telling them to be aware that deception will exist, but to take heed or watch (a primary verb in the Greek). It is a command to be watchful. We need to purposefully guard against deception.

Satan's global plan of deception for mankind began in the Garden of Eden. The deceptions of religion are going to increase as we come closer to the return of Christ. We are warned again and again throughout the Bible to be awake and alert. There are deceiving spirits whose purpose it is to lead us away from Truth and we should not be ignorant about this.

AGE OF KNOWLEDGE & DECEIPT

We live in an age where people believe whatever they want. Knowledge is everywhere, and it is freely available. This was revealed to the prophet Daniel.

Daniel 12:4, NLT

But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase."

Not all knowledge is bad. We must just be able to discern between knowledge that resonates Biblical Truth and knowledge that does not.

Isaiah 5:20, ESV

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

More and more people are beginning to do what seems right in their own sight. Trends, ideas and lies are spreading around the world like never before, due to technology, and people are being taken captive by concepts and ideas that stands opposed to Biblical truth. We have to be wise in how we live at this time.

The enemies' goal is to establish a one world government with a one world religious system that is opposed to Christ. The man of sin (antichrist) will take lead together with the false prophet and they will glorify satan through what they do and what they force everyone to believe and do.

The push towards globalism is not a Biblical model. In fact, God destroyed this plan at the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9.

DECEIVE DEFINITION

Mat 24:4 - And Jesus answered and said to them, Take heed that no man **deceive** you.

Greek: **Planao**

plan-ah'-o means: To cause to roam (from safety, truth, or virtue), go astray, go into error, be out of the Way, to wander. Planao occurs 39 times in the King James version of the New testament.

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES DEALING WITH DECEPTION & HERESY

Deception is such a major issue in this life and therefore many of the letters (Epistles) of the Apostles specifically deals with problems of deception in the first century.

Romans

Those who deny the truth and follow after their own desires. Because, knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were thankful. But they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

1 & 2 Corinthians

Many Christians choose to live in sin yet at the same time wants to be representatives of the Kingdom.

Galatians

Adding to the Gospel rules and regulations of the Judaizers brings bondage.

Colossians

Once again, heresy is the problem here and Paul addresses it by placing the focus on Christ's attributes and character.

1 & 2 Thessalonians

Major End Time focus and correct teaching about what happens.

1 & 2 Timothy

A clear theme in this book is refuting false teachers. Obviously there was a major heresy threatening the church that came through combined Gnosticism, Judaism and a form of false asceticism.

Paul warned Timothy, "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13).

Titus

Warning against false teachers.

2 Peter

It helps to know how to deal with evildoers and false teachers coming into the church.

1 John

Receiving assurance of salvation is wonderful. This is what stands out to me in this book. Assurance... Because I have it, I must continue in my firm belief in Christ, not yielding to deceptive ideas, philosophies and religious doctrines contrary to Truth.

2 John

You need to know who you support! Not everyone has God's best interest at heart.

LAST DAY DEPARTURE FROM CHRISTIANITY

1 Timothy 4:1-5

But the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some shall **depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and teachings of demons**, speaking lies in hypocrisy, being seared in their own conscience, forbidding to marry, saying to abstain from foods which God has created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creation of God is good, and nothing to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving. For it is sanctified through the Word of God and prayer.

People will listen and follow after seducing spirits and teachings of demons, departing from the essence of Biblical truth. The goal of these spirits is to draw your commitment away from the Lord and towards other things.

2 Peter 1:21; 2:1-3, MKJV

For prophecy was not borne at any time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke being borne along by the Holy Spirit. But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who secretly will bring in destructive heresies, even **denying the Master (Lord) who bought them**, bringing on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their pernicious (wicked) ways, and because of them the way of truth will be evil spoken of. And through covetousness (greed) they will use you for gain with well-turned words; for whom judgment from of old does not linger, and their destruction does not sleep.

There will always be false teachers that bring in heresies, but we need to be awake.

WHAT IS A HERESY?

Heresy – means a “choice”. It is a heresy when you choose how much of the Bible you are going to believe. Heresies imply that you choose certain part and ignore or rejects others.

DECEPTION COMES SUBTLE

The enemy takes the truth and twists it. He does not directly deny what we believe, but satan questions what we believe in the hope that we will begin to doubt what we believe. He wants you to be double minded, focused on God but also focused on something else. He wants us to begin to doubt whether what the Bible says is actually true. When we entertain his questions, we fall. Most Christians do not realise when they are being deceived. The enemy comes with nice words, speaking about love, with honey around its mouth, but its intentions is to destroy. Be careful of preachers that preaches love all the time and who never preaches judgement as well. Righteousness and justice is the foundation of God's throne.

The devil asked Eve in the Garden of Eden, “did God really say”. He does the same thing today. For example, is the Virgin birth really important? Is the Creation Story in Genesis really important for us? Is Jesus' resurrection really so important? Speaking about Hell sounds so scary and

aggressive and intolerant, lets just stop speaking about it. That is exactly what heresy is, choosing what you want to believe and leaving out the parts that you don't like. Jesus spoke a lot about hell. When we prioritize things that Jesus did not, or when we overemphasize what Jesus did not, we fall into error. When we deliberately ignore truth spoken by Jesus, we rebel against His authority. So, either Jesus was wrong in talking about those things or we have our priorities wrong. Needless to say, the problem lies with us.

The lie often comes veiled as the truth. We have entered into a time of tremendous deception in the Church. Sadly, many leaders and Pastors are not faithful to God's Word anymore and they are preaching sermons that sounds Christian, nice and loving, but it is often nothing more than humanism in disguise. Many Pastors, especially in the West, compromise the truth for the sake of keeping everyone happy and to be accepted by everyone.

2 Peter 2:1

...even denying the Master who bought them, bringing on themselves swift destruction.

The essence of deception is this: DENYING THE LORD!

Any teaching or ministry that questions the fact that Jesus came in the flesh, He lived a sinless life, He died, was buried and rose again, ascended into heaven and will one day return, is not of God. These are the fundamental beliefs of the church.

CONCLUSION

The remedy for error is to preserve truth. The way to recognize the lie is by knowing the truth. Truth always expose errors.

THE BEREANS

Acts 17:10-11

And the brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. They, when they arrived, went into the synagogue of the Jews. And these were more noble than those of Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind and searched the Scriptures daily to see if those things were so.

The Bereans made diligent and earnest inquiry in respect to what Paul and Silas were saying. Was it truth? Was it in accordance with Scripture? The Bereans did not believe the teachings of Paul because he was a good speaker, or he was charismatic, or because he was a friend whom they can trust. No, but we read in Acts 17:11-12 that because of their passion in searching the scripture daily and proving all things, they came to the conclusion that Paul's teachings were true. We should have the same attitude as the Bereans.

Questions for Life Groups Discussion:

1. Why do we sometimes get so easily deceived and what should we do about that?
2. Can you think of a subtle way in which the enemy wanted to deceive you? Please share it with the group.
3. How much time do you think we should spend every week studying the Scriptures like the Bereans did?