

## CURRENT EVENTS AND THE BIBLE

Greetings precious people, this week we are going to examine another of today's events and how they relate to the Word of God the Bible. Jesus and the Apostles spoke very clearly of certain events and occurrences that would "mark" the time prior to the return of Jesus Christ. This week we will look at the aspect of "Deception".

Jesus warned His disciples then as well as now about an overwhelming deception that would come upon the world in the last days, in Matthew 24:5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many." 24:11 "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many." 24:24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

The Apostles also had much to say concerning deception and the last days. In Ephesians 5:6 "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience." 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

It is clear from the preceding verses that "deception" will play a major role in the time leading up to the return of Jesus Christ. The question we must consider is: How are we seeing (if we are not deceived so much already as to not see it) deception playing a role in our world that will lead up to the time of great deception?

Let me begin by defining what deception is and the ingredients that are necessary for deception to take place. The main ingredient is either the complete absence of "truth" or the perverting and twisting of the truth. Truth as we see in the Word of God the Bible is the Word of God.

We first see this deception in the Garden of Eden with Satan and Eve in Genesis 3. Satan first came questioning God's truth and then twisting it and finally outright denying it. This deception continues to the present and is ever increasing. Let me cite a few examples of the present. The teaching of evolution denies the truth of Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Another is the acceptance of homosexuality and now same sex marriage, this denies the truth of God's creation of Adam and Eve and His institution of marriage as stated in Genesis 2:24, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." We also see as is stated in Romans 1:18-28 of how we are turning from the worship of the Creator and worshiping the creation resulting in being given over to darkness and foolishness. I could go on and on citing numerous examples of how deception is illustrated and being played out in our society, our government; business world; economy; et al is filled with and exists on deception.

Two final points I would like to make. First, from the verses cited above we see that it is God who gives mankind over to believe all the lies of Satan in the Last Days

because he (man) refused to believe the truth. Second, also from the verses cited, the warnings that Jesus and the Disciples gave were all directed to believers (Christians). The implication is great, Christians can be deceived. Many of them are for there is a mass departure from the Word of God in most churches today and turning to the vain philosophies of the day. It is astounding the number of professing “Christians” who do not believe: Jesus is the only way to Heaven; the Bible is inerrant; Jesus was born of Mary as she was a virgin; etc....

The world is ripe for the master deceiver to come on the scene and proclaim himself to be god and the vast majority will follow. What about you?

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