

ARE YOU READY FOR THE END-TIME DECEPTION?

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I have been talking recently about the Last Days and the “Time of The End”.

Somewhere ahead of us lie perilous times.

The Beast Power ... Antichrist ... the Horsemen of The Apocalypse — martyrdom of the saints.

Unavoidable. **It is best to be prepared — for whatever comes our way.**

One thing I want to focus on today is to **GUARD AGAINST DECEPTION — especially end-time deception — on a huge scale.**

Scripture is plain. **There will be massive ... powerful — deception in the latter days.** Deception is normal — in every situation. We live in a world of deception.

Prepare now ahead of times.

Let's start with the Lord Jesus:

Matthew 24:3-5

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.

5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.

DECEPTION! HIGH LEVELS OF DECEPTION!! This is Jesus' first warning to the disciples!!

“I am the Christ” has 2 meanings. Referring to the actual Jesus ... or alternatively — individuals claiming they are God’s “Anointed One” — God’s spokesman for the 21st century.

I take all of Matthew 24 to be the end of this age at the time of his coming.

Matthew 24:9-14

9 **“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you,** and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. (*“Kill you” — He’s talking to disciples*)

10 And then **many** will be offended, **will betray one another, and will hate one another.** (*“Offended” — stumble ... fall away*)

11 **Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.**

12 And **because lawlessness will abound, the love of many** (*the majority!*) **will grow cold.** (*“Love” = Agape — Christian love*)

13 **But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

14 **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

Believers will “stumble” — some will “fall away” (ESV).

Many false prophets. Doing what? **DECEIVING!!** The context appears to be disciples? Us!!

Matthew 24:23-26

23 **“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it.** (*“Says to you” — disciples!*)

24 **For false christs** (*anointed ones*) **and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.**

25 **See, I have told you beforehand.**

26 **“Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it.**

Great signs and wonders!

The Elect won't be deceived — IF — THEY HEED JESUS' WARNINGS!! IF THEY REMAIN WATCHFUL!!

A very difficult time to hang on to The Truth! Don't be complacent. We need to remain the Elect!

1 Corinthians 10:12

12 **Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.**

Take heed! Written to believers!

Ahead is mega deception — ON STEROIDS!! 😞

1 Timothy 4:1

1 Now the Spirit expressly says (*explicitly ... not ambiguously*) **that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,** (*talking about believers*)

Depart = APOSTATISE — “to rebel” ... “to abandon the Truth”!! To stumble — fall away. Turn their backs on the Faith — turn their backs on Christ!

There will be spirits of deception.

1 Timothy 4:2

2 **speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,** (*“lies” is the opposite of The Truth*)

Hypocritical liars now— who were believers — who were in the Faith!!

We have to pay attention to these warnings seriously.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

1 But know this, **that in the last days perilous times will come:**

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

The Last Days — perilous times — dangerous times ... difficult times ... stressful times ... grievous times.

“Having a form of godliness” = “an appearance of godliness” — but — they are DECEIVERS!!

TURN AWAY! DON'T HANG AROUND!

2 Timothy 4:1-5

1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

2 **Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.**

3 **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, (carnal) they will heap up for themselves teachers;**

4 and **they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (Preach smooth things)**

5 **But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

The time will come when believers won't endure sound teaching. **They will turn away from the Truth!** They will yield to deception. Prefer to hear “smooth things”?

2 Corinthians 11:1-4

1 Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.

2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. **For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**

3 **But I fear, lest somehow,** as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so **your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**

4 **For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!**

Verse 4: “you put up with it readily enough” (ESV)
“You’re ready to go with it” (VOICE)

We need to guard our minds. We should be pushing back. Not accepting a different Jesus.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

13 **For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.**

14 **And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.**

15 **Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness,** whose end will be according to their works.

Satan has ministers. They look genuine!! They look like ministers of righteousness.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

1 **Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,**

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

End-time. The return of Christ meeting His elect in the air.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-5

3 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.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

DON'T BE DECEIVED!! The Man of Sin will DECEIVE MANY!!

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

There will be DECEPTION AMONG THOSE WHO DON'T LOVE THE TRUTH!!

“Loving the Truth” appears to be an antidote to deception.

IF YOU KNOW THE TRUTH — YOU'LL RECOGNISE THE LIE!!

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12

11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

God actively sends strong delusion — in judgment — against those who don't love the Truth.

The time to know the Truth — really know it — and love it — is now! This should be really important to us!! Valuable to us!

2 Peter 2:1-3

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, **even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.**

2 And **many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.**

3 **By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words;** for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. (***“covetousness” — they follow the money!***)

There will be MANY false teachers among you and MANY will follow.

“Ways of destruction” — not the “way of Truth”. Deceptive words – words of deception.

If many follow ... it implies the deception is strong and effective?

Jude 1:3-4

3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, **I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.** (*You need to get back to the Faith*)

4 For **certain men have crept in unnoticed,** who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, **ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

“The Creeps” have crept in.

You didn't spot them! You weren't diligent!

Jude 1:12-13

12 **These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear**, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; **late autumn trees without fruit**, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

13 **raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

These creeps are turning up among the saints.

Jude 1:19

19 **These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.**

These creeps cause divisions — they are carnal. They don't have the spirit. Sadly — many will follow their error.

Jude exhorts us to stick with the Truth. Deception was a problem in his day. It's a problem in our day. And will be an even bigger problem in the end-time!

Revelation 6:1-2

1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."

2 **And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.**

Imitating Jesus' white horse of Revelation 19. The Islamic Mahdi — the Muslims end-time saviour?

He goes out "To conquer" = "to overcome". (Compare: YLT)

For too many ... the Truth will be overcome by the lie.

Signs ... wonders ... false prophets and "anointed ones" — sufficient to deceive (almost) the Very Elect.

Don't wait till we're in those days to prepare ... **GET READY NOW.** The time to prepare is **RIGHT NOW!**

1 Peter 4:7

7 **But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.**

The end is at hand. **BE WATCHFUL IN PRAYER — BE SERIOUS!**

2 Peter 3:11-18

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,**

12 **looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,** because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless **we**, according to His promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

14 **Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;**

15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

17 **You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;**

18 **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

BEWARE LEST YOU FALL!! Deceived by the wicked!

GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE.

ADVICE:

1. Take the warnings of scripture seriously. Now!
2. Get into The Word. Knowing the Truth will make it easier to spot deception!
3. Continue in prayer. “No man is greater than his prayer life”.

Then we can look to the Spirit of God to “alert” us to deception.