

TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU
Matthew 24:4

This is the first response of Jesus after the disciples asked him (vs.3), "...what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world?"

The first "sign"; strong deception. So strong and powerful ..."that, if it were possible, they should deceive the very elect" (vs. 24). UNDERSTAND, that doesn't mean the elect will not be affected, assaulted, and struggle to remain free of it. The deception is so palatable to the flesh and carnal nature, being rooted in the rightly divided Word of God; being sensitive to and familiar with, the true voice of the Holy Spirit (Jn.10: 4- 11 & 16:13), will be an absolute necessity to stand. Those hearers of, and not doers of the Word, deceive themselves (James 1:22,I Cor. 3:18). The insidiousness of deception is the deceived actually believes himself to be right and any contrary voice to be ignored. Even if the contrary voice is soundly founded in book, chapter verse (II Thess. 2:9-12).

I'm sure by now, some are asking what deception I am referring to in this article. The deceptions in our land are many, but currently I will expose three.

Two weeks ago, one of America's leading "Christian" ministers held a seminar at his mega church. This was to introduce a new "Daniel Diet" plan he co-authored with three psychologists. Of these doctors, one incorporates Buddhism, another eastern mysticism, universalism, another a Swedish Cult. What they all have in common is being the anti-thesis of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The central issue being, salvation through faith in the blood of Christ alone. This amalgamation of beliefs, under the guise of good health and healthy diet, will be used to deceive thousands, if not millions, because it uses an element of truth, but not the whole truth (Jn.8: 21,32,36 & 14:6).

Another deception being promoting currently in the book "Original Sinners", is the Bible is just full of metaphors. Having been raised in church, attending every service, revivals and VBS, but scolded for asking too many questions, the author left his faith in the Bible. "as the years passed, I continued to separate from the idea of the Bible's literal truth until, finally, I put it away." He goes on to say he decided in time , though he did not believe there was a Garden of Eden, Adam, Eve , Abraham etc., the Bible is useful as literature and as a metaphor for life lessons. So we need not worry about the Bible's requirement of "Ye Must Be Born Again" (Jn. 3:7). Heaven or hell, indeed none of the scriptures are to be taken literal, but seen as metaphors for lessons of life. Now, after serving in churches, he has led or co-led over 300 two day seminars around the world, teaching this doctrine. Why is it dangerous? Because in this generation of "spiritual" but not "religious" folk, this lie serves to mollify the hunger for God that is intrinsic in all of us, with "what works for me".

The third deception I wish to address is among Charismatic/Pentecostal people. Certain of the better known charismatic prophets and gurus are now espousing the teaching of "Third Heaven Visitations At Will", "Spirit Travel At Will" and "Trance Dancing". I declare emphatically, this teaching is a flat out lie! It hasn't even got a grain of truth in it. But the spiritually undiscerning, who are so anxious and gullible for anything supernatural, grasp this stuff all too readily. Folks, there is a genuine move and flow of the Holy Ghost and accompanying manifestations, in our world today. BUT, there are MANY counterfeits. Be discerning. "Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, whether they are of God.."(I Jn. 4:1). Be sure you judge every doctrine, manifestation, dream, prophecy, word etc by the WORD OF GOD and not vice versa. The author of the Holy Word, will do nothing that is at variance with His rightly divided Word!

Take heed that no man deceive you! (Ephesians 5:14-23).