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Spiritual Deception
Deut. 12:29-13:18

The repeated warning of spiritual deception is impossible to miss in the book of Deuteronomy, It is one of the mayor themes.

Jesus repeatedly warned about deception during His day as well as the future.

Paul the apostle seems to deal with the problem of deception constantly and also warns against it throughout his epistles.

Have you ever notice how fast a lie or heresy spreads but how slow the word of God is embrace.

* Mark Twain said, "A lie runs around the world while truth is putting on it's boots".

Look at the many deceptive heresies that are being taught and excepted by the so called Christian church.

1. The prosperity doctrine that teaches that Christians are little gods and can speak their world into existence.
2. The same prosperity teachers teach that Jesus went down into hell to suffer at the hand of Satan as payment for sins instead of what the scriptures teach that Jesus paid the price to God at the cross.
3. The Kingdom or Dominion theology teaches that we will take back grown from Satan and one day bring in the Kingdom.
4. The Liberation theology allows the use of force and violence to further the Kingdom.
5. The movement of signs and wonders teaches experience and new revelation as equal to the scriptures going beyond what the scriptures teach.

6. The integration of psychology and Scripture called "Christian Psychology is nothing more than cracked cistern that can hold no water and at best stagnant water, with it's many facets of therapy, repressed memories, reliving your past through twelve step programs.
7. The ecumenical movement proclaims love for the sake of unity at the expense of doctrine, destroying the Gospel.
8. The most recent "Toronto Blessing" of barking in the spirit" is another circus type phenomena that causes both the church to be ridiculed and God blasphemed by the unbeliever.

These are but some of the present day deceptions that are being taught as well as excepted in the so called church of Jesus Christ.

In view of all this we want to look at the proclamation of Moses against spiritual deception which provides for us three things. 12:29-13-18

- I. The warning about spiritual deception. 12:29-32
- II. The ways of spiritual deception. 13:1-16
- III. The wealth in resisting spiritual deception. vs. 17-18

- I. **The warning about spiritual deception. 12:29-32**
 - A. The time is the future. vs. 29
 1. When the Lord their God would cut off the nations.
 - a. The victory was sure. 7:1-2
 - b. The phrase "to possess or possess it" appears 52 times.
 2. When they would displace those in the land and dwell in their place.
 - a. The phrase "the land" appears 112 times.
 - b. The land was God's gift to them. 1:8

- c. The land was under God's protective eye throughout the year. 11:12
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B. The warning is specific. vs. 30
1. The proclamation is "take heed to yourself".
 - a. The phrase is found throughout the book, eight times. 4:9, 23, 11:16, 12:13, 19, 30, 24:8, 27:9
 - b. The phrase implies the possibility of spiritual deception.
 - 1) Remember the heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked. Jer. 17:9
 - 2) Remember that sin nature still resides in the believer until death. Rom. 7:18
 2. The potential danger is three-fold.
 - a. To be ensnared and follow them after they are destroyed.
 - b. To be curious and inquire after their gods, saying, "How did these nations serve their gods?"
 - c. To make a willful choice to do likewise.
 - 1) The word "do" appears 98 times.
 - 2) The word "obey" appears 10 times.
 - 3) The word "observe" appears 21 times.
 - 4) The word "hear" appears 34 times.
 - 5) The word "fear" appears 29 times.
 - 6) The word "remember" appears 15 times.

* The phrase "Jehovah your God" or "Jehovah our God" appears over 300 times, they were to be loyal and faithful!
- C.** The danger is syncretism. vs. 31
1. The joining of the pagan practices and attributing them to the worship of Jehovah God. vs. 31a

- * Aaron did exactly that when he formed the golden calf. Ex. 32:4-6
2. The manner of worship practices to their gods were hated by God because they were an abomination to the Lord. vs. 31b
 - 1) The word abomination is used for that which is detestable and dishonoring to God in the book and the Bible!
 - 2) The word appears sixty-nine times in the Old and New Testament.
 - a) Sixty-five times in the O.T.
 - b) Four in the N.T.
 - c) twelve times in Deuteronomy. 7:25, 26, 12:31, 13:14, 17:1, 4, 18:12, 22:5, 23:18, 24:4, 25:16, 27:5
 3. The example of one practice was the burning of their sons and daughters in the fire in their worship to Molech. vs. 31c
 4. The channel was idolatry which God forbade due to the fact that they saw no form at Sinai and it was prohibited in the first and second commandments. Deut. 4:15-19, 5:7-8
- D.** The precaution is clear. vs. 32
1. Whatever God commanded they were to do, in simple words, OBEY!
 2. Whatever God had given to them in the word, they were not to add to it or take away from it! Deut. 4:2, Prov. 30:6, Rev. 22:18-19
 - a. John tell us that we are not to believe every spirit, but that we are to test the spirits, whether they be of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1Jn. 4:1
 - b. The book of Acts tells us that the Bereans received the word of God with all readiness

of mind and search the Scripture daily to find out if those things were true. Acts 17:11

The warning about spiritual deception is for every person!

II. The ways of spiritual deception. 13:1-16

- A. By a religious man. vs. 1-5
1. The person is identified. vs. 1a
 - a. He is called a prophet one who speaks for God.
 - b. He is called a dreamer, one who receives dreams from God.
 - c. He is known for having a reputation of such spiritual abilities. vs. 1a
 - 1) God calls out prophets and anoints them to speak forth His word, such as Jeremiah, Isaiah, Amos and Hosea.
 - 2) God speaks through dreams also but it is always God who gives the interpretation, such as in Joseph's case and Daniel's.
 - 3) God's gifts are always counterfeited which is the greatest evidence of the existence of the genuine article.
 2. The method of deception is described. vs. 1b-2
 - a. By super-natural phenomena. vs. 1b-2b
 - 1) He gives a sign which points to power of the super-natural.
 - 2) He gives a wonder which describes the response of the observer to the sign, in awe of it.
 - 3) He is able to accurately manifest the prediction or promise. vs. 2a-b
 - b. By spiritual solicitation. vs. 2c-e
 - 1) Let us go after other gods which you have not known. vs. 2c-d

- 2) Let us serve them. vs. 2e
- c. By spiritual polytheism, the word "gods" is in the plural.
3. The directive is given. vs. 3-4
 - a. The response of the person solicited is to not listen to the words of the prophet or dreamer of dreams. vs. 3a
 - b. The reason is that the Lord their God was testing them to know whether they loved the Lord their God with all their heart and with all their soul. vs. 3b
 - * The knowing is not to find out the outcome but that their own hearts be revealed to them. 8:2-3
 - c. The personal responsibility is declared. vs. 4
 - 1) To walk after their Lord and God, meaning to follow after. vs. 4a
 - 2) To fear Him which is the flip side of love, the only true motive for obedience. vs. 4a
 - 3) To keep His commandments and obey His voice. vs. 4b
 - 4) To serve Him and hold fast to Him which means to recognize His authority over their lives and dependency. vs. 4c
4. The proper actions are prescribed. vs. 5
 - a. The prophet or dreamer of dreams is to be put to death. vs. 5a
 - b. The reason is two-fold.
 - 1) He attempted to turn them away from Jehovah their God who redeemed them from the house of bondage. vs. 5b-c
 - 2) He enticed them from the way in which the Lord their God commanded them to walk. vs. 5d
5. The effect is proclaimed. vs. 5e

- a. They communicated their intolerance for evil.
 - b. They communicated their speedy execution to exterminate evil from their midst.
* The word of God is the only basis for authenticating divine truth and revelation.
Jer. 23:25-29
- B.** By a religious relatives or close friends. vs. 6-11
- 1. The persons are identified. vs. 6a-e
 - a. His brother.
 - b. His son or daughter.
 - c. His wife.
 - d. His friend.
 - 2. The method of deception is described. vs. 6f-7
 - a. By spiritual solicitation. vs. 6f-j
 - 1) The solicitation is secretly to isolate the person from other counsel.
 - 2) The intent is to entice the person's curiosity.
 - 3) The words are to go and serve other gods, which they have not known, neither they nor their father's.
 - b. By spiritual polytheism. vs. 7
 - 1) The gods around them.
 - 2) The gods near them.
 - 3) The gods far off from them.
 - 4) The gods of the whole world.
 - 3. The directive is given. vs. 8
 - a. The response of the person solicited is five-fold.
 - 1) He is not to consent or yield to the words. vs. 8a
 - 2) He is not to listen to the words. vs. 8a
 - 3) He is not to allow his eye to pity him. vs. 8b

- 4) He is not to spare him. vs. 8c
 - 5) He is not to conceal him. vs. 8c
4. The proper actions are prescribed. vs. 9-11
- a. The person was to be killed. vs. 9a
 - b. The person solicited was to be the first to put him to death. vs. 9b
 - c. The rest of all the people were to follow in the execution. vs. 9c
 - d. The manner of execution was by stoning. vs. 10a
 - e. The reason for the execution was he sought to entice the person from the Lord who brought them out of Egypt, the house of bondage. vs. 10b-d
5. The effect is proclaimed. vs. 11
- a. All of Israel will hear and fear. vs. 11a
 - b. All of Israel will not do again such wickedness. vs. 11b
 - 1) This is called a deterrent to those who would be inclined to repeat such a crime due to capital punishment which our social scientist tell us does not work! Gen. 99:6, Num. 31-33, Rom. 13:4
 - 2) Paul the apostle warned the Ephesian elders that after his departure there would arise of themselves those who would speak perverse or misleading things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Acts 20:30
- C.** By a religious group. vs. 12-16
- 1. The persons are identified. vs. 12-13a
 - a. The person who hears the information about spiritual deception is to act. vs. 12a
 - b. The location is in one of the cities God gave them to dwell in. vs. 12b

- c. The deceivers are said to be sons of Belial, worthless and base fellows who have gone out from among them. vs. 13a
- 2. The method of deception is described. vs. 13a-d
 - a. By spiritual solicitation. vs. 13a
 - 1) The intent is to entice the inhabitants of the city by curiosity. vs. 13a
 - 2) The words are, "Let us go and serve other gods". vs. 13b-c
 - 3) The
 - b. By spiritual polytheism. vs. 13d
 - * The plural, gods whom you have not known.
- 3. The directive is given. vs. 14a-c
 - a. They were to inquire and search out. vs. 14a-b
 - 1) They were to interview people implied by the word inquire.
 - 2) They were to gather evidence implied by the phrase, search out.
 - b. They were to ask diligently. vs. 14c
 - 1) They were to remove all doubt of false accusations.
 - 2) They were to understand the severity of the matter at hand.
 - * Paul was astonished at the Galatians soon departure from the Gospel of grace to works of the law and declared that it was another gospel of a different kind and that even if they or an angel came and preached any other gospel to them, that individual was to be anathema, the strongest word for damnation in the Greek! Gal. 1:6-9
- 4. The proper actions are prescribed. vs. 14d-16

- a. If the information is true, they were to strike the inhabitants with the edge of the sword. vs. 14d-15a
- b. They were to utterly destroy it, including its livestock. vs. 15b-d
- c. They were to gather all its plunder into the middle of the street and burn it as a sacred extermination dedicated to God, never to be built again. vs. 16
 - * Even as Jericho was to be totally destroyed but Achan took of the accursed thing. Josh. 7:19-21

The ways of spiritual deception are many!

III. The wealth in resisting spiritual deception. vs. 17-18

- A. The blessings of God on a person are stated. vs. 17
 - 1. The Lord would turn from the fierceness of His anger and may show mercy. vs. 17a-b
 - a. The anger of the Lord is against all ungodliness and sin, particularly idolatry.
 - b. The turning from His anger is possible only by the scriptural provision, the provisions in the law and now grace.
 - c. The mercy of the Lord are abundant and new every morning.
 - d. The mercy of the Lord is less than the individual deserves.
 - 2. The Lord would show compassion and multiply them. vs. 17c
 - a. The compassion of God is to the one who is unable to help himself and cast himself on God.
 - b. The multiplication of them would be according to the promise to the fathers.

- 1) Evidence of God's faithfulness.
 - 2) Evidence of their obedience.
 3. The Lord would be found to be true to His word as He promised to the fathers. vs. 17d
 - a. His personal promises are always conditional on man's response.
 - b. His promises never fail.
- B.** The reasons for the blessings are given. vs. 18
1. They listened to the voice of the Lord their God. vs. 18a
 - a. They heard what He communicated.
 - b. They understood what He communicated.
 - c. They obeyed what He communicated.
 2. They kept the commandments given. vs. 18b
 - a. Stability was to be their pattern.
 - b. Commitment was to be their focus.
 - c. Consistency was to be their reputation.
 - d. Perseverance was to mark their love.
 3. They did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. vs. 18c
 - a. God was to be their first love. Deut. 6:4-5
 - b. God was to be the silent listener and viewer of all they did. Mal. 3:16
 - c. God was to be pleased in them.
 - * John's closing words are, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. 1Jn. 5:21

The wealth in resisting spiritual deception is priceless!

Conclusion

We have looked at the proclamation of Moses against spiritual deception which was marked by three things.

- I.** The warning about spiritual deception.
- II.** The ways of spiritual deception.
- III.** The wealth in resisting spiritual deception.