



Living in the End Times Session 2 – The Sign of Deception

I. Introduction

Matthew 24:3-14 (NKJV) – ³Now 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?” ⁴And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are the beginning of sorrows. 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. ¹⁰And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹²And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴And 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.

A. Why This Series?

1. **There are many in the church who do not know the basics about end time events.**
2. **Last Week – Watch for the Signs**
 - a. Jesus tells us that we can know that His coming is drawing near by watching the signs.
 - b. Signs – defined like the road signs along the highway.
 - c. The signs tell us that we are approaching our destination.
 - d. Signs warn us of impending dangers.
 - e. Signs keep us on course so that we will arrive at our destination.
 - f. The signs of the times keep us mindful that we are nearing the coming of the Lord.



- g. The signs of the Lord warn us of the dangerous times we are in so we may guard ourselves and our family.

II. The Sign of Deception

A. When Jesus lists the signs, He most He most likely dealt with the most important one first.

1. Many shall be deceived.

- a. **Matthew 24:4-5 (NKJV)** – ⁴And Jesus answered and said to them: *“Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.*
- b. The very first sign that Jesus spoke to his disciples about contained a CLEAR WARNING about wide scale, worldwide deception that would emerge prior to His return.
- c. He warned His disciples to GUARD AGAINST DECEPTION.
- d. The primary indicator that the end of the age is upon us will not be earthquakes, famines, disease – but DECEPTION.

2. Deceive definition – To wander off course.

- a. It could depict an individual or an entire nation that has WANDERED off course.
- b. It speaks of someone who has VEERED off course from a moral position they once held to be true.
- c. In the GREEK it depicts the behavior of someone who once walked on a solid path but now who is DRIFTING and TEETERING one the edge of a treacherous route.

3. Many = refers to large multitudes

The deception that is going to come upon this world in the last days will not only impact a few/minority – but rather MANY which could indicate the majority.

The majority isn't always right!



4. Jesus strongly warned against Deception.

- a. **Matthew 24:4b (NKJV)** – *Take heed that no man deceives you.*
- b. **Matthew 24:5b (NKJV)** – *For many shall come in my name saying I am Christ and shall deceive MANY.*
- c. **Matthew 24:11 (NKJV)** – *And many false prophets shall arise and shall deceive MANY.*
- d. **Matthew 24:24 (NKJV)** – *For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets and shall shew forth great signs and wonders insomuch that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (They will be convincing).*
- e. **When you see the world around you FULL of deception you will know the end is near.**

B. Deception brings Moral Confusion.

1. The deception that will come upon this world at the end of the age will attempt to engulf humanity with MISINFORMATION about what is morally right and wrong.
*This is what we are witnessing in our world today.
There is no greater confusion than gender identity, yet our world is diligently at work to promote this confusion as being RIGHT.*
2. The culture most of us knew growing up was established on JUDEO-CHRISTIAN values or *values/morals based upon the Bible.*
3. NOW, the world is rapidly departing from the time- tested beliefs based upon biblical values.
4. The Spirit of this world is working furiously to eliminate all remnants of a Godly foundation from our society AND to replace it with the LAST DAYS DECEPTION that will eventually usher in the antichrist.
5. The antichrist is a worldwide leader who will emerge on this world's scene to work the works and agenda of Satan.
He will eventually exalt himself to be God.



6. The only way the antichrist could emerge and take control is for the people to give him control!
This speaks strongly to the condition of the minds of people at his appearing.

C. Scriptural Warning about Moral Confusion

1. **Isaiah 5:20 (NASB)** – *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*

Isaiah 5:20 (CEV) – *You are headed for trouble! You say wrong is right, darkness is light, bitter is sweet.*

2. **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NKJV)** – *⁹The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all **unrighteous deception** among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this reason God will send **them strong delusion**, that they should believe the lie, ¹²that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
- The Antichrist comes with Lying wonders and unrighteous deception.
 - He gets advantage because – they did not receive the love of the truth.
 - For this reason – God sends Strong Delusion – God allowed – or God gave up on them.
 - Delusion** = mental straying – error – To have a wrong opinion relative to morals or religion – an error which shows itself in action
 - Delusional** – *someone who is delusional is characterized by holding idiosyncratic beliefs or impressions that are contradicted by reality or rational arguments. – typically, a symptom of mental disorder.*
 - The original language also means “*Beguiled, Seduced or Duped*”.



- g. Rick Renner = “This period of deception will be so intense that people will believe what is false over what is obviously true, even denying facts and truths that are common sense”

D. Deception and Departure from the Faith

1. **Matthew 24:5 (NKJV)** – *For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.*

The original terminology is not limited to an individual who claims to be Christ. It also is inclusive of SPIRITUAL LEADERS who would go astray and lead others astray.

2. **Deception will not only be in the world but in the church.**
The deception in the world will infiltrate the church.

1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV) – *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons*

1 Timothy 4:1 (CEV) – *God's Spirit clearly says that in the last days many people will turn from their faith. They will be fooled by evil spirits and by teachings that come from demons.*

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NKJV) –³*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*
⁴*and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

- a. **Fables** = *gr = fantasies*

Paul is saying – In the last days speakers would substitute the authentic teaching of the Bible for an emphasis that is not biblical. There will be a DEMAND for RE-STYLED messages that will agree with or endorse things that are contrary to the Word of God.



- b. **2 Timothy 4:3 (NLT)** – *"For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear."*

III. Closing

A. Remember the Signs are for our Benefit.

B. As we see the *SIGN OF DECEPTION* at work all around us we need to guard ourselves.

1. Stay with the clear teaching of scripture.
2. Strengthen yourself in the Word of God daily.
3. Refuse to be moved by doctrines and philosophies that are against the sound/proven teachings of God's word.

4. Confession

I honor God's word above the word of all others.

I choose to allow the Word of God to be the complete authority over my life.

I will guard against deception.

I will not be moved by deception.

I will know the Truth and the truth will make me free.

God's Word is TRUE.

I will NOT BE DECEIVED!