

The Power of Deception

The first incidence of deception we are told of in G-d's word is found at Genesis 3:13 (NKJV) "¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Can deception cause us to lose salvation? Can deception put us into a position of having the door to the kingdom closed on us (Matthew 25:10-13)? Can deception put us in a position to be told by Christ, "I do not know you" (Matthew 7:23, Matthew 25:12) with the resultant consequences?

Think about it and ask of ourselves; "am I really grounded in the Word of G-d", could I lose my Salvation by deception? The Word in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 talk pointedly about that.

James tells us without hesitation that it is not just enough to believe, for even the demons believe and they shudder (James 2:17-20) Seriously, Satan and his followers, the fallen angels, not only believe, but know G-d the Father and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ personally (Acts 19:13-16, Matthew 8:29, Luke 4:33-34)

They have stood before G-d, accusing him of favoritism, accusing mankind of serving out of selfishness and so on. Does their belief does get them salvation?

What is deception? We should know, but here is the definition: noun de·cep·tion \di-'sep-shən\
Simple Definition of deception

- : the act of making someone believe something that is not true : the act of deceiving someone
- : an act or statement intended to make people believe something that is not true

Full Definition of deception

- 1 : a, the act of deceiving : b, the fact or condition of being deceived
- 2 : something that deceives : trick <a clever deception>

Source: Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary

Satan's deception is foundationally rooted in doubt. By creating doubt, Satan creates a lack of trust and thus a lack of faith, a lack of believing. By creating doubt, Satan twists the truth to be palatable to fit our desires.

In some translations of the Greek writings, the word seduce is used. Seduce/Seduction and Deception are the same word in Greek.

We are told concerning the days we are currently in, the last days of the end times about deception. Jesus Christ when asked by the disciples about this time told them many things, but also gave warning of how powerful the deception would be. Matthew 24:24 (NKJV) "²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

This is mirrored in Revelation concerning the power of deception in the last days. Revelation 13:11-14 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived."

Concerning the last days, the use of deception appears to be very, very powerful does it not? The deceptive occurrences are not something totally alien to us, but mimic what we expect from knowing G-d's word. Did not Satan attempt to use the word of G-d against Jesus in the wilderness? He tried to use it in a "deceptive" manner to fit what he was saying to Jesus!

Think about the original fall of mankind as chronicled in Genesis. Adam and Eve were not stupid, not mentally challenged, not without guidance from G-d; no, they were not simpletons by any means or manner. Adam and Eve were created directly by G-d Almighty. He created them in His image, perfect in mind and body! Adam and Eve had a direct relationship with G-d Almighty, being able to directly commune with Him, talk directly to Him, walk with Him in the Garden of Eden! Adam and Eve were in charge of the Earth along with all the knowledge, maturity, and understanding that accompanies that!

Still, Satan was able to use a powerful deception causing doubt and thus Adam and Eve to be disobedient to G-d's command becoming sinful, bringing death sentence along with the imperfection of sin to themselves and all their offspring. The deception was not something blaring and loud, no, it was simple and subtle.

Scripture tells us Satan turns himself in an angel of light in order to seduce and deceive:

2 Corinthians 11:14 (CJB) ¹⁴ There is nothing surprising in that, for the Adversary himself masquerades as an angel of light;"

2 Corinthians 11:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."

2 Corinthians 11:14 (TEV) ¹⁴ Well, no wonder! Even Satan can disguise himself to look like an angel of light!"

The biggest tool of Satan's deception is the creation of doubt, for doubt is a lack of trust and concerning this; it would be a lack of trust in what G-d tells us, says or commands:

Genesis 3:1 (NKJV) ¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

Deception is rampant within the walls of the "Church". The deception of Satan is used to create theologies, customs, doctrines, and ideologies that do not line up with G-d's word. Satan has, just as he tried in vain to do with our Lord Jesus Christ, Yeshua HaMashiach, use and twist a portion of a scripture to cast doubt and seduce/deceive.

Sadly, many are merely "tourists" in the House of the Lord and are just "visitors" with the family, sons and daughters of G-d Almighty. Jesus/Yeshua addressed and warned of this many times in His parables. Parables, such as the sower of seeds and the seeds, a house built on solid ground (foundation) and house built on sandy soil, not being able to get into the Kingdom of G-d for lack of preparation (Parable of the ten Virgins). Jesus gave specific warnings of "false christs {messiahs}", false prophets, great signs and wonders of those not of G-d. Christ warned that many will try to say how they did for Him and in His name, but He will not acknowledge them.

I offer the following as food for thought. Be as the Bereans who came to know and accept Jesus, because they checked and verified even what the Apostle Paul was teaching. The following is a mere small sampling of "theologies", or "doctrines" that are accepted without question in the "church". They are not "theologies", "doctrines" or "practices" which bear the standard of scripture. These are not in any specific order

- ❖ **"Did G-d really say?":** The Sabbath is the Seventh Day, making it Saturday, Honor and keep the Sabbath- Genesis 2:2-3 (NKJV) ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work, which God had created and made. Leviticus 19:30 (CJB) ³⁰ "Keep my *Shabbats*, and revere my sanctuary; I am Adonai. ***** Leviticus 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ 'You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I *am* the LORD. ***** Leviticus 19:30 (TEV) ³⁰ Keep the Sabbath, and honor the place where I am worshiped. I am the LORD.
- ❖ **"You can be like G-d knowing good from evil" - You can be like G-d making your own decisions – You can justify your actions:** Religious Encyclopedias and Religious text books show that the "change of the Sabbath" from Saturday to Sunday was made the decisions of men made of flesh and bone (men born into sin and imperfection). Personally I have heard it from the pulpit; "It is the day of the Lord {meaning Sunday}, that is why we {referencing the church} changed it {meaning the Sabbath}"
- ✓ **"Did G-d really say?":** I made the institution of marriage between a man and a woman only; I detest (synonyms – hate, loath) homosexuality, I made male and female as they are, I set the genders! - Genesis 2:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ***** Matthew 19:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴ And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning '*made them male and female,*' ⁵ and said, '*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?*' ⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. ***** Leviticus 18:22 (NKJV) ²² You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It *is* an abomination. ***** Leviticus 20:13 (CJB) ¹³ If a man goes to bed with a man as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they must be put to death; their blood is on them. ***** Romans 1:22-27 (NKJV) ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

- ✓ **"You can be like G-d knowing good from evil" - You can be like G-d making your own decisions – You can justify your actions:** "If you don't agree with the lifestyle and choices, you are a hater" "I was born this way" "A person should be able to marry the person they are in love with" "Don't judge me" "Times have changed" "God made me this way" "I have freedom of choice" "God accepts me as I am"
- **"Did G-d really say?":** Do not get a tattoo; Leviticus 19:28 (CJB) ²⁸ Don't cut gashes in your flesh when someone dies or tattoo yourselves; I am Adonai. ***** Leviticus 19:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I *am* the LORD. ***** Leviticus 19:28 (TEV) ²⁸ or tattoo yourselves or cut gashes in your body to mourn for the dead. I am the LORD.
- **"You can be like G-d knowing good from evil" - You can be like G-d making your own decisions – You can justify your actions:** "That is old testament" "That does not apply, I did not cut myself" "I did a religious one to honor God and or Jesus" "Man that is so legalistic"
- **"Did G-d really say?":** I do not change, I do not change with the "times"; Malachi 3:6 (NKJV) ⁶ "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. ***** Malachi 3:6 (TEV) ⁶ "I am the LORD, and I do not change. And so you, the descendants of Jacob, are not yet completely lost. ***** Numbers 23:19, Psalm 102:25-27, Psalm 33:11, Isaiah 46:10, Isaiah 43:10, Psalm 138:8, Philippians 1:6, Exodus 3:14, Romans 11:29, Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:17, James 1:17, Hebrews 13:8
- **"You can be like G-d knowing good from evil" - You can be like G-d making your own decisions – You can justify your actions:** "The old testament does not apply to us" "Old Testament is out dated" "That is not what they {disciples and apostles} meant" "My Pastor says those laws do not apply to us any more" "God knows what is in my heart and knows I make mistakes"
- ✚ **"Did G-d really say?":** The feasts or festivals of the bible are not just for some, they are my Feasts, my observances and the is why I have told you to observe and celebrate them; Leviticus 23:3-4 (NKJV) ³ 'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day *is* a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work *on it*; *it is* the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. ⁴ 'These *are* the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. ***** Exodus 12:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.
- ✚ **"You can be like G-d knowing good from evil" - You can be like G-d making your own decisions – You can justify your actions:** "Those are those Jews and their religious stuff" "That is so legalistic" "We have our own celebrations" "G-d abandoned the Jews and we don't have to celebrate that stuff any more"

This is just a small sampling of some of the things that show the deception we are bombarded with concerning G-d's word to us for our life. It is obvious that G-d's Word says one thing with men, the church and religious leaders many times say something opposite or make excuses for an action, theology, and or doctrine.

Here is what Jesus Christ told the religious leaders, the "church" during His ministry time on earth concerning their teachings, traditions, and excuses for not following G-d's word:

Matthew 15:4-9 (NKJV) ⁴ For God commanded, saying, '*Honor your father and your mother*'; and, '*He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.*' ⁵ But you say, '*Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God"*-- ⁶ then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus, you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. ⁷ Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ⁸ '*These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*' ⁹ *And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'* "

Sadly, it has not changed, for as the Apostle and original Disciples passed away, the deceptions and contamination of Satan crept into the church.

So, what is the point here? The point is that we are up to our eyeballs in deception concerning the commands and our life walk with G-d and our Lord. Do we really bear the standard and foundation of scripture, G-d's Word? Are we going to hear those deadly words, "I know you not".

Deception in the last days of which we are in, is going to be powerful, so powerful, even the elect are not immune from falling prey to it. Food for thought, if we are already trapped by deception concerning our walk and worship of G-d Almighty and our Savior, Jesus Christ, how could we resist the powerful deceptions coming our way? Remember Satan's deception is so powerful Adam, Eve fell prey to it, and they were perfect direct creations, having a personal one on one relationship with G-d, in person!

Think about it, if a theology or doctrine is controversial, then it is probably not clean of deception. Do you have a hard time "wrapping your mind around some of the teachings that are scripturally sound, but not what you have grown up with and you can not prove them inadequate or lacking?"

On that note, which camp do we sit in? Christ's camp with Peter or those who walked out on Jesus because they could not "wrap their minds around" Christ's teachings:

John 6:59-69 (NKJV)

⁵⁹ These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"

⁶¹ When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?"

⁶² *What* then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.

⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

⁶⁵ And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to

him by My Father."

⁶⁶ From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"

⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

⁶⁹ Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Are you willing to "roll the dice" concerning your salvation? Do not do it, rather research teachings, research back to the "beginning". Do not take doctrine for "gospel" from one verse or a part of a verse. Rather look back and forward in the verses to obtain the full context. Do to our indoctrination growing up and years of indoctrination in the church, the truth can sting when we hear it for the first time, it does not tickle our ears.

This is food for thought, for a little thing really can cost us our salvation. A simple subtle deception could cost us our salvation! I could go on and on for we have plenty of examples in G-d's Word. Study; compare teachings, doctrines and theologies with the Word of G-d. If they do not line up with G-d's Word and or there is a conflict with other scriptures, guess what! One of the great deceptions is that you have to have a degree, a PHD from a cookie cutter seminary or college to understand G-d's Word and or even teach about it. Not what Paul told Timothy is it? I am sure glad G-d never made that distinction. Even His chosen people to represent Him and teach the world about Him were chosen from the lowliest. I am glad that Jesus did not make that distinction when choosing the Apostles and original disciples.

Do not take my word for it, be as the Bereans, and study for yourself, the entire Bible, the complete Word of God. Time is getting short and there will come a time when it will be too late to "finally" make the right decisions (parable of the ten virgins).

You have to be in the Word for the Word to be in you! Just find the examples of this concerning the apostles and disciples, starting with Jesus Himself when dealing with Satan in the wilderness!

Shalom, G-d Bless and Keep you!

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