

BLURRING THE LINES

BLURRING THE LINES OF REALITY

2 TIMOTHY 3:13-17; MATTHEW 24:4

Introduction

We know and can see that these days we live in are some very **EVIL DAYS!** We also know that **EVIL DAYS** arise because of the **EVIL ACTIONS of EVIL PEOPLE** and the **EVIL ACTIONS of EVIL PEOPLE** come forth out of an **EVIL HEART!**

JESUS had this to say about **MANKIND'S EVIL** in...

Mark 7:21-22—“*For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*”

JESUS also said these words written in...

Luke 6:45—“*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*”

SCRIPTURE tells us of both the **EVIL DAYS** and the **EVIL PEOPLE** of **NOAH'S DAY!** It was **SO EVIL** that the **LORD** had enough and destroyed the earth with a **WORLDWIDE FLOOD**.

Genesis 6:5—“*And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*”

Genesis 6:11-12—“*11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.*”

Our **LORD JESUS CHRIST PROPHECIED** that **HIS COMING AGAIN** to this world would be preceded by days and happenings similar to that of **NOAH'S** days: **Matthew 24:37**— “*But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*” (*Cf. Luke 17:26*)

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And the **LORD JESUS** also described those days this way:

Luke 17:27—“*They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.*”

i.e. *It was business as usual with A TOTAL DISREGARD OF THE JUDGMENT THAT WAS TO COME!*

As we look at the times we live, we can see that there is great **EVIL** and so there is no shortage of **EVIL MEN**. Well, the **APOSTLE PAUL** even **PROPHESIED** here in our text that **EVIL MEN** and **SEDUCTERS** would wax worse and worse **DECEIVING** and **BEING DECEIVED!** This particular word translated “**SEDUCTERS**” means “**IMPOSTERS**”.

i.e. Not only would **EVIL MEN** be involved in **DECEPTION** by **DECEIVING** others, but they would also be **DECEIVED** themselves!

Let's think about where we find ourselves in 2024. Things are getting more and more in such a way that it's hard to know **WHAT REALITY IS—WHAT TO BELIEVE** and **WHO TO BELIEVE**!

The lines between **FACT** and **FICTION** have been **BLURRED** and are being **BLURRED**, primarily due to the relentless advancement of **“DEEFAKE TECHNOLOGY!”** **“DEEFAKE TECHNOLOGY”** is a form of **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** that can be used to **create convincing hoax images, sounds, and videos**. It uses a form of **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** called **DEEP LEARNING** to make images of fake events, hence the name **DEEFAKE**.

DEEFAKES use computerized learning algorithms to analyze, map, and imitate a person's voice or facial expressions captured in source media, such as a video. The **TECHNOLOGY** behind **DEEFAKES** is constantly changing and improving such that it is **BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN REAL AND FAKE VIDEOS!** So, it has never been easier to **DECEIVE** or be **DECEIVED!**

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DEEPCODEXES have been used for various purposes, including pornography, political propaganda, and entertainment. However, they can also be used for malicious purposes, such as spreading false information or committing fraud. **It is important to be aware of the potential dangers of DEEPCODEXES and to take steps to protect yourself from them.**
(<https://www.fortinet.com/resources/cyberglossary/deepfake>)

A study in 2023 found that there has been a 550% rise in the creation of doctored images since 2019. Before A.I., Photoshop technology was used to doctor images. The increase in the last 5 years has been fueled by the emergence of A.I.!

With the rise of such **DEEPCODEX TECHNOLOGY**, anyone can be placed in pictures or even videos that they never participated in, and voices can be manipulated with uncanny accuracy!

e.g. Just one week ago, the social media platform X (formerly known as "Twitter") had to block searches for Taylor Swift after explicit AI-generated images of the singer began circulating on the site.

So, what does the **BIBLE** tell us about **DECEPTION**?

I. THE BIBLE SHOWS US THAT SATAN IS A DECEIVER AND THE FATHER OF IT!

1 Timothy 2:14 says that **EVE** was "*deceived*" by **SATAN**.

1 Timothy 2:14—“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”

Revelation 12:9 says that **SATAN** “*deceiveth the whole world*.”

Revelation 12:9—“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

JESUS is quoted in **John 8:44** calling **SATAN** “*the father of lies*.”

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John 8:44—“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

2 Corinthians 11:14 says that “*Satan himself is transformed into an ‘angel of light.’*” **transformed = transfigured or disguised**

2 Corinthians 11:13–15—“13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

A. We Know That SATAN Tries To Counterfeit All That GOD Has In Order To DECEIVE! What things does he counterfeit?

1. BIBLE—GOD has one BOOK OF TRUTH that contains HIS WORD! SATAN has many books:
Koran, Book of Mormon, The Sayings of Confucius, other so-called “holy books” plus all the perversions of the true WORD OF GOD that change and distort what GOD has said!

Remember, the word “**DECEIVED**” means “*to roam or be moved away from truth or virtue.*”
JESUS is THE TRUTH!

2. CHRIST—GOD has one CHRIST! SATAN has many antichrists.

1 John 2:18—“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.”

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1 John 2:22—"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

SATAN uses Counterfeits...

B. We Know That SATAN Will Use Any And Every Means He Can To Try To DECEIVE!

He will use **Politics, Power, Riches, Pleasure, and Religion.** **Ephesians 6:11—** “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

“Wiles” denotes “craft; deceit; a cunning device” (A.I.?)

2 Corinthians 2:11— “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: **for we are not ignorant of his devices.**”

“Devices” denotes “a device, contrivance”

THE BIBLE SHOWS US THAT SATAN IS A DECEIVER AND THE FATHER OF IT!

II. THE BIBLE SHOWS US THAT MANKIND, ESPECIALLY THEM THAT ARE LOST, ARE DECEITFUL!

John 8:44— “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.”

Colossians 2:8— “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

2 Timothy 3:13— “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

A. Mankind Is Often DECEITFUL In Business!

That is why there is the Better Business Bureau, Attorney General's office, Consumer Product and Safety Commission, and the list goes on of groups that try to protect the public.

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B. Mankind Is Often DECEITFUL In Politics!

Just look at the state of most of the politics in our land and the gross **DECEPTION** involved so much of it. Is there any wonder that the electorate are **CYNICAL** when it comes to voting?

Sadly, too many politicians are like **PONTIUS PILATE** in **John 18:19!** There we find **JESUS** (The **ONE WHO IS THE TRUTH**) was talking to **PILATE** about how **HE** came into the world to bear witness unto the **TRUTH** and how that every one that is of the **TRUTH** hears **HIS** voice! After hearing that **PILATE** asked **JESUS**, “*What is truth?*”

C. Sadly, Mankind Is Often DECEITFUL In Religion!

Be careful about what you **HEAR** and **BELIEVE**. Don't just swallow anything that sounds good that comes along. **Ephesians 4:11-15**

2 Corinthians 11:13— “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.”

2 Peter 2:1-3

SATAN...MANKIND, ESPECIALLY THE LOST...

III. THE BIBLE SHOWS THAT THE COMING ANTICHRIST WILL BE DECEITFUL! (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

2 Timothy 3:13— “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

People are being **DECEIVED** more so today than ever before! An increasing number of people are swallowing lies and it is getting more so that way with each and every passing day!

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After the **LORD JESUS** comes to call **HIS CHURCH** out of this world, all that **DECEPTION** is going to culminate in **THE MOST EVIL, THE MOST SEDUCING and THE MOST DECEIVED** and the **MOST DECEIVING** man this world has ever seen!

Here in these verses of 2 Thessalonians 2, he is called "**THAT MAN OF SIN**" (Vs 3), "**THE SON OF PERDITION**" (Vs 3) (*i.e. Lost and determined to stay lost*), and "**THAT WICKED**" (vs 8)!

The Book of the *Revelation 13* he is called "**THE BEAST.**"

IV. THE BIBLE SHOWS THAT OUR OWN SINFUL HEARTS ARE DECEITFUL!

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

The **LORD** warned the **Children of Israel** in *Deuteronomy 11:16*—
"Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them."

The problem with the **HEART** is that it not only **DECEIVES** others, but it **DECEIVES** us. **SELF-DECEPTION** is some of the worst kind of **DECEPTION**.

V. SO HOW CAN WE GUARD AGAINST DECEPTION?

(What did **PAUL** instruct **TIMOTHY** to do? See *verses 14-17*)

A. **In these dark days, we must draw closer to GOD! As one draws nigh to GOD, GOD draws nigh to them!**
(James 4:8)

B. **If you haven't already, come to KNOW the ONE WHO is THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE!— JESUS CHRIST! (John 14:6)**
Without **CHRIST**, you don't have a chance of not being **DECEIVED!**

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C. **As one comes to KNOW GOD through SALVATION in CHRIST, they are given GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT to help them DISCERN TRUTH!** (*John 14:17 calls HIM "the Spirit of Truth"*)

GOD'S SPIRIT Will Open Up The TRUTH Of HIS WORD To Us To Help Teach Us And Guide Us!
(But that means we **MUST** be in the **SCRIPTURE!**)

As one comes to KNOW GOD more through HIS WORD They Become More Grounded In TRUTH!

John 17:17—"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth"

Also, the more we know the **WORD**, the better we can **TEST** things against the **TRUTH!**

D. **Put on the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD each day!**

Ephesians 6:10-13

Know what that means if you don't already!

E. **Be a person of PRAYER to GOD (*Matthew 7:7-11*) and FAITH in GOD!**

1 John 5:14-15—"14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."