

## DECEPTION

One of the *wisest* men is one who, from experience and Spirit-inspired humility, realizes he is one of the most *deceived* men on earth.

An intolerable fool is one who persists in denying he is deceived, or worse, remains content in who he perceives he is. The majority of American Christians are text-book cases of the latter.

The moment one says he is right, he is wrong; none else is right except God alone. We may *be* right legally, or even morally; it's the speaking forth of imprudent words that puts us in jeopardy.

The children of Israel met with a battle in their minds when they were confronted with the need to change their way of thinking in light of all of God's miracles during their trek from Egypt to Canaan. Their 400 years of deception, now ingrained generational thinking, had taken its toll. They refused to violate their own minds in favor of believing God's word, spoken through Moses. Hence, they lost and forfeited their opportunity to enter Canaan for their lack of faith in God's ability to help them conquer the Canaanites. It is significant that God told the fools "their dead bodies would fall in the wilderness." Even more significant is the age at which God made a cut-off, twenty to be exact. Why twenty? Because that is the age beyond which deception is imbedded; indeed, their minds were already "dead." Those less than twenty were still absorbing and adsorbing the events to which they had been exposed, namely the miracles. Their minds were not yet set in the deception clinging to their fathers. Moreover, it was and will continue to be, the youth who are the vanguards of movements, particularly spiritual movements.

Men and women over twenty-one become increasingly deceived. By the time one is forty, or fifty, or sixty, *the stones of deception* (mortared into place by the acceptance of, and belief in lies) *are increasingly formed into walls*. With age, decreasing numbers of people are converted into Christianity. Empirical data clearly supports this premise.

The only thing anecdotal to our pre-conceived thinking is the transfiguration of our minds by the Word of God. Even preceding that is the acceptance that our minds need changing in the first place. The latter is difficult enough. The spiritual stone of truth is the *rhema* word, coming out of the Logos word of God and made alive, or quickened by the Spirit. It is what transfigures (metamorphoses) our minds. The belief and acceptance of that rhema word is called faith; this faith becomes the mortar that holds the stones of truth; as they multiply, they become "living stones" in our lives.

Before continuing with a discussion of the presence of wisdom or deception in our lives, a few definitions of the words pertinent to this discussion need to be reviewed. Because our understanding of the meaning of words can vary, a clear and fuller definition of some key words will give clarity to a continuing discourse. The definitions are taken from *Strong's Concordance* and *The Noah Webster Dictionary*.<sup>1</sup>

## DEFINITIONS:

**To lie:** speaking or writing *with the intent to deceive*; lying may involve telling the truth in such a manner as to leave a false impression; groundless words or activity which have no basis in fact or reality; to exhibit a false representation. Remaining silent, or even telling a half-truth, can be intentionally misleading; thus it is a lie.

**Deceive:** to mislead, to beguile, to lead astray, delude, misrepresent, and intend to make someone believe that which is not true or disbelieve what is true.

**Wicked:** means in most cases, the state described by turbulence, tumult, being disjointed, poorly regulated, restless, loss, disagreeable, confused, dishonest, exploiting, ruin, destruction (the undoing of what is).

**Wisdom:** means in most cases, the right use or exercise of knowledge, experience, intelligence, insight, or accurate judgment in the entire realm of human behavior. Wisdom is never apart from God. Wisdom is savvy in all secular affairs, skills, morality, prudence, and spiritual experience.

**Simple-minded:** unaware, unsuspecting, artless, a failure to consider events, paying little attention to their surroundings; impulsive; those who through want of knowledge and experience act unwisely. They are silly, easily seducible, gullible, and easily deceived. Such are characterized by consistent loss, trouble, disjointed families and surroundings.

## ONE-LINERS ON DECEPTION

We are deceived because we choose to be deceived.

Deception is most prevalent where there is no fear of God; this in itself most often arises out of a missing or abdicating father, from whom the children, particularly the males, should have been taught the fear of God.

Deceit is the first mortar round against the mainstays of:

1. The Word of God
2. The fear/reverence of God

In Jeremiah's day, the ratio of deceitful, lying "prophets" to true men of God was 99:1, at best 9:1; should we expect it to be any different today? In the days of Joshua and the Exodus, there were only two men, Joshua and Caleb, out of 600,000, who were not deceived. In Gideon's army, only 300 out of 32,000; in Ezekiel's day, one or two out of hundreds; are we not a hundredfold more evil than they?

Deceit is the very opposite of THE truth.

Deceit nearly always has the appearance of 90% truth.

Deception becomes wisdom through the process of the transformation of the mind. Otherwise defined as a metamorphosis of the mind, literally from one state to a completely different state. An example is **true** repentance, being “born again.”

A transformation/metamorphosis of the mind occurs only from the rhema Word, by and through the Holy Spirit, to and in a born-again believer who chooses to have the deception revealed, and chooses to receive the new way of thinking.

Deception is inversely proportional to knowledge of the Word; wisdom is directly proportional to that knowledge.

The ultimate deception is thinking you will not understand, or cannot.

The larger the group, the more pervasive the deception.

The older the institution, the more indurated the deception.

The older the institution, the more entrenched the deception.

The more elitist the institution, the higher the degree of subtlety of deception, usually in the form of flattery.

The more venerable the institution, the more it is based on tradition rather than the Word.

The more dysfunctional our childhood in formative years, the more prevalent the deception.

There are four kinds of souls: the wicked and the righteous, the fools and the wise. The former two apply to the spirit, the latter to the soul (mind).

You may have:

1. The wicked to be wise in a worldly sense
2. The righteous to be foolish
3. The righteous to be wise
4. The wicked to be fools

Godly wisdom stems from one position only, the fear of God.

Believing a lie is easier than pursuing the truth.

The more deceived we are, the more nervous we become when presented with the truth.

The more deceived we are, the more emotional we become in the face of truth.

The more deceived we are, the more comfortable we are from day to day.

Deceit is most likely to find a home in religious matters.

Deceit revolves around lots of words.

Deceit appears to be the easy way out; indeed, a short-term Hope-So mentally outweighs a long-term Maybe.

Deceit has few concealing seals over it; truth, many.

God not only allows deceit, oft-times He sends delusions upon the wicked and upon fools, whether righteous or not.

In any given gathering, deceit outweighs truth 10:1 or more.

In any given gathering, deceit shows up first, and more often than not, stays for the whole show.

Death, often premature death, is the final earthly fruit of deceit.

The more entrenched the deceived, the more verbose.

Deception is more prone to the simple-minded, but not exclusively so.

Deception is IQ formulated.

It is easier to remain deceived than to change.

No amount of logic or persuasion can dislodge deception. Being a spiritual variable, it is dislodged only by the Holy Spirit, by the grace of God, as He chooses.

The degree of defense of our forefathers is proportional to the degree of our deception.

The Group of the Deceived abhors the deliverance of one of its own; watch your throat.

Deception is almost always institutionalized; put another way, Groups of the Deceived provide mutual affirmation of a lie.

The degree of our deception is directly proportional to our dependency upon our spiritual leader to tell us what is true.

The larger and more massive the institution, the more dead and bloody bodies there are before its collapse.

The hierarchy of a man-made institution is shrewder than its members; admiration, control, and power are its motives, because power corrupts and absolute power absolutely corrupts. Woe be it unto that man who challenges that hierarchy!

Only after a long period of oppression (fraud, extortion, control, torture, loss, murder, and worse) does the man-made institution collapse due to its own internal corruption.

Lord Rees-Mogg: “Perfection is achieved only by institutions on the verge of collapse.”

The most basic form of deception is a woman other than your wife. You think about it long enough, there is no comparison, other than more fat in the right places, and less in the wrong places; with time, even that will fall, or expand.

A corollary to this is any man occupying the rightful and legitimate place of Jesus in His relationship to you, personal and real. This applies to any man in a cathedral, on a podium, behind a pulpit, or behind words or doctrine. The artificial usurper is a whore, replacing Jesus’ relationship to you. The bigger his image is to you, the more he is a whore.

Few things in life are as they seem.

Publishers spend a lot of time and money on the covers.

Righteousness and wisdom plead, beg, and implore not to be deceived, at any cost.

If you rarely think about deception, you are already toast. Brace for a ram....

Denial of deception? Satan’s ace-in-the-hole.....

Living under deception is like living under curses; you don’t even feel it for the longest time. Then boom! - The Grim Reaper strikes. “What happened,” asks the simple? “I don’t know...”... and on and on.

To the deceived, God is “up there someplace.” To the wise, He is near, very near.

In the long run, deception is far more destructive than plain ol’ sin.

Dake’s Bible lists 46 characteristics of a fool; you would be hard-pressed to be clear of all of them, or even the majority.<sup>2</sup>

The taller the podium, the louder the microphone, the brighter the lights, the deeper the deception; add in height, looks, Caucasian, male, and the audience is fresh meat, ready for the fork. The numbers of those deceived by such a man are legend.

Too much talk, especially in the form of bragging, is the vanguard of deception.

Disappointments, particularly from expectations, are the cloud covers for deception.

The LORD never makes a mistake.

The more deceived we are, the more defensive we become when our deception is challenged. (This is mentioned twice because it needs to stick...)

There are nearly 300 million Americans; thus there are nearly 300 million different opinions about any single subject, all of which are wrong unless each agrees with the Word. Rarely is this the case, even among believers.

There is no lasting truth apart from the Word of God.

There is no deliverance from deception apart from the Holy Spirit.

Deceit is listed in the middle of the most despicable attributes known to man, named by God Himself.

I Corinthians 6:9, 10; Revelation 21:8; Proverbs 6:16-19

Deception is invisible.

Deception is the hallmark of a fool; being born again does not inoculate you.

Deception is nearly always pleasant and comfortable.

The inside view of deception is perfectly normal.

Deception most always originates with our parents.

Being deceived ushers in ruin, loss, pain, destruction; however, the cause/effect is rarely perceived because of the long time lag between same. Most of the time current denial trumps fading memory anyway.

The fruits of deception oft find their blame in places and people other than their causes.

The great majority of the Deceived die unchanged.

Few of the Deceived accept any blame; indeed, the common retort is, "I don't know what you're talking about."

It is real easy to be deceived.

Deception occurs when you least expect it.

Deception favors a crisis, and loves an emergency.

Deception sees an opening when you do things yourself.

Isaiah 30:1

Deception is a ready companion to carelessness.

If beforehand counsel is sought, prayer is made, and the rhema word is heard, deception does not show up when crises arise and the flurry of battle is upon you.

A lie espoused by us is a slap in the face of God.

Eschewing His face, ignoring His Word, and disdainning His grace will get us in deep doo-doo.

Ignorance of the law, or anything else, is no excuse.

Deception usually is on top of the ground; wisdom is deep under cover. Indeed, the obvious is designed with the fool in mind.

Deception is fond of a short tether; by contrast, wisdom usually is a companion to travel, communion, and discourse with people other than your familiar friends.

Deception is what you get delivered to you morning, noon and night, by those who make money off you by your nodding in agreement with what they say. Don't think, just nod!

The TV and most forms of the media have but one purpose: to tell you what they want you to know and have you pay for it.

It is no coincidence that actors/actresses, even the best, are among the most poorly educated.

Deception is prominent; wisdom is found in the strangest of places.

Debt discloses deception.

The Taj Mahal of deception? -the abdicating male, and his disrespectful, pants-wearing wife.

Deception ultimately targets the male; the female is the decoy.

The Deceived spend a lot of time whining. Wisdom bends the knee first, and questions second.

Wisdom is always behind enemy lines.

The smell of a new car is the mating odor of deception.

Deception is pleasing; wisdom is offensive; remember that.

Leonard Ravenhill once told me, "Eat and sleep as little as you can; pray as much as you can." Did he mean:

-sensual excesses (food/fat, sleep, entertainment) are the baccalaureate services for the Deceived?

Deception is being down 14:1 and thinking you cannot win; equally, being up 14:1 and thinking you cannot lose is deadly.

The end game of deception is murder; suicide and abortion are the methods of choice.

The welcome mats of deception are anger (at God usually), envy, jealousy, and self-pity, not necessarily in that order.

The immediate antidote for deception is a direct challenge by the Word. ( I guess that's one good reason for us to know for ourselves what it says...)

If the fruit of deceit is death, then the fruit of truth is life.

So said Jesus, "I am the Truth, the Way, the Life."

So said Jesus, "Satan is the father of lies."

So said Jesus to the religious leaders of His day, "You are of your father, the devil."

**December 2006**

**One of the Sons of Issachar**

Post Script 3/6/11

Tare closely resembles wheat. (For those of you in KY, cheat looks like wheat.)

A traitor looks just like a patriot.

A spy looks just like a countryman.

A dandelion hides under the red clover, flat on the ground, out of sight, until it is too late to kill him with normal means.

An adulteress looks like a queen, and smells even better.

A liar sounds really, really good; lotsa words, too.

Deception, deadly deception, is imbedded in truth.

Truth looks the same from all directions; a lie does not.



A lie is self-serving; truth benefits the whole.  
Neither a lie nor the truth are detected by the mind.

Judas looked and sounded just like Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Brutus was Caesar's best friend.

Ahithophel worshipped alongside David, and had deep conversations with him.

Profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

All the Body Snatchers wanted you to do was go to sleep for a moment.....

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<sup>1</sup> See frequently used reference list at end of book.

<sup>2</sup> Finis Dake, Dake's Annotated Reference Bible, (Dake Bible Sales, Lawrenceville, Georgia, 1961)  
p. 651, column 4.