



### **Deception in the Last Days**

According to Jesus, deception will be rampant in the \_\_\_\_\_ days, that is, the days just before His \_\_\_\_\_. Consider, for example, Matthew 24:1-5, 11, 24. A false prophet is a religious imposter. According to Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_ will be deceived by these false prophets. Not all false prophets work miracles, but apparently those that do are more dangerous and convincing. False prophets do not announce that they are false prophets. In fact, they themselves might not even know that they are false prophets. They would be *self*-deceived. Jesus described these prophets as \_\_\_\_\_ in sheep's \_\_\_\_\_. Paul even went so far as to say that \_\_\_\_\_ himself transforms himself into an \_\_\_\_\_.

### **What Revelation Says About Deception in the Last Days**

The book of Revelation foretells that \_\_\_\_\_ will reach epidemic proportions in the \_\_\_\_\_. Note, for example, the following texts. What do they all have in common?

- [Revelation 12:9](#)
- [Revelation 13:14](#)
- [Revelation 19:20](#)
- [Revelation 20:10](#)

The dragon uses deception. It is the hallmark of his plans and strategies. He used it on the heavenly angels. He used it on Eve in Eden. And today, no surprise, he continues to employ deception. In fact, his deceptive power will only increase as we near the end of time.

### **Paul Shared Jesus' and John the Revelator's Concern About Deception**

Note [2 Thessalonians 2:1-9](#) and make comparison with Matthew 24 and the above texts from Revelation. Did Paul share the same concerns as Jesus and John about deception in the last days? \_\_\_\_\_

In this passage Paul expresses concern about several issues:

1. the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord's return
2. the \_\_\_\_\_ of the "Man of Sin" and Satan himself
3. the rejection of \_\_\_\_\_ and the embracing of \_\_\_\_\_
4. the deceitful \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and \_\_\_\_\_

### **My Own Heart Betrays Me?!**

According to Jeremiah 17:9, what is deceitful above all things? \_\_\_\_\_ Perhaps the most dangerous kind of deception is \_\_\_\_\_. Write down several texts that warn about this kind of deception.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

This is a very important, and often overlooked, point. The heart is steeped in sin and selfishness and thus longs to accept that which accommodates and caters to its unregenerate nature. The unconverted heart loves to hear that which flatters it. It is almost as though our heart wants to be deceived and lied to. This is especially true if that lie "frees" the heart and mind to indulge in unrighteous pleasure and sin.

### **The Elixir (Cure) for Deception**

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the elixir for deception! It alone can free us from deception's power and influence. Think, for example, of Eve in the Garden of \_\_\_\_\_. How different things would have been if Eve, like Jesus in the wilderness, had stood on a plain "thus saith the \_\_\_\_\_", and "it is written". Eve should have trusted the Word of God; it could have immediately dispelled the darkness of Satan's power.

In John 1:1-3, Jesus is referred to as the *logos*, that is the \_\_\_\_\_.

Consider the following texts that equate \_\_\_\_\_ with God's Word:

- John 17:17
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- 2 Timothy 2:15