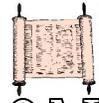




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DESTRUCTION BY DECEPTION

Do you think that you have a good understanding of things? Are you on the way to eternal life? Do you think you can be deceived? A deceived person doesn't know that he is deceived. Here is a good article about deception that we hope will cause you to think, and perceive more deeply.

By David Douglas

I personally don't like words that paint negative mental pictures, nor do I like words that carry negative connotations. That is why I didn't want to entitle this article "Destruction By Deception" because both words convey a negative mindset. The common problem that we all struggle with is that just because we don't like something it doesn't mean we can just ignore its existence. Hard truth and direct talk is very necessary to provide balance in our thinking process. What we think and believe is how we will walk and talk. We need to be aware of numerous tricks, schemes, perversions, deceptions, and outright lies that destroy families, friendships, faith, trust, and hope. Anyone or anything that causes deception is causing sin. The wages of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23)

This article is Part III of a series. Part I was entitled "Bearing False Witness." The main thought therein being the "Truth" recorded in the Sacred Scriptures cannot be changed by the interpretation of man, any group, or by false testimony. Truth is always the truth...and reigns supreme. "...Thy Torah/Law is the truth." (Psa. 119:142)... "Thy word is truth." (Jn. 17:17) "The Spirit is truth." (I Jn. 5:6) "Yahshua saith...I am the Truth..." (Jn. 14:6) These scriptures are foundational for all true believers. Solomon

said... "Have I not written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, that I might make thee know THE CERTAINTY OF THE WORDS OF TRUTH; that thou mightiest answer **THE WORDS OF TRUTH** to them that send unto thee." Prov. 22:20-21) (*Emphasis mine*) The certainty of the words of truth always matters.

Therefore we must always be mindful of what we present as "The Truth." The Torah is the Truth. The Truth is the Word. The Word is the Spirit. All these are inseparable components of Yahweh Eloheinu. In John 6:63b Yahshua plainly stated: "...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Truth imparts life; but false witness and deception brings destruction and death.

Part II was entitled "The Depth of Deception." Rev. 12:9 states: "...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which **deceiveth** the whole world." Therefore everyone is susceptible. One of HaSatan's greatest deceptions is imitation. Imitation is the art of counterfeiting. He could be standing in the middle of your congregation quoting scriptures to you. You and I must never let the Devil teach us the Bible! Pure truth is always revealed by Ruach HaKodesh/The Holy Spirit. Make no mistake, deception is



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in the world! HaSatan is building a “Counterfeit Church” ...and this “End-Time False Church: will be a deception by imitation which will include strong delusions whereby many will be deceived. (See: 2 Thes. 2:10-12) Yahshua warned us... “For there shall arise false messiahs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” (Mat. 24:24) This is the depth of deception I am speaking about. And this is what the Scriptures reveal will happen, and indeed is happening all around us throughout the world today.

Webster’s Dictionary states: “destruction: a cause or means of destroying.” Destruction is a noun – a thing; and it is the main thing HaSatan is working on full time. The Devil is a thief and a liar. The Apostle John described him in Rev. 9:11, “And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abbadon (Strong’s Heb. #11, Abaddown/Destruction), but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon (Strong’s Gr. #623, Apolluon/Destroyer).” After his fall from grace, Satan’s plan was to steal, kill, and destroy. He is dedicated to stealing your hope and joy in Yahshua. He wants to kill your faith in the promises of Yahweh. And he wants to destroy the testimony of Yahshua manifested in the saints – the sons and daughters of Yahweh. How? By getting you to act and talk on spurious information and man-made doctrines; by misdirection/deception; and by perversion of our perceptions.

The basis of any religious belief system is all about perception. Perception is a mental

grasp of object both tangible and intangible through our five senses and our moral and spiritual insight into the nature of things. Therefore, what the truth really is...and what you “perceive the truth to be” takes on great significance. How do you perceive the fact that Yahweh created the heaven and the earth (Gen. 1:1), and how do you perceive the “Theory of Evolution” by Charles Darwin? Did Elohim create man in their image (Gen. 1:26), or do you question whether we crawled out of a primordial mud puddle? It’s all about perception. If HaSatan can pervert your perception he can plant seeds of doubt, deception, destruction, and death.

Yahweh has always desired to walk and talk with his children. How do you perceive your loving Father in heaven? Do you take time to talk to Him every day? He sent mankind an extensive love letter – The Sacred Scriptures, and it is very hard for Yahweh to talk to you if you are not familiar with His letter – The Word of Yahweh, all 66 books. Until we truly accept the complete Sacred Scriptures containing the promises, plan and purpose for mankind as the absolute measuring stick for righteous living, we will always have human questions, doubts, uncertainties, and unbelief. Why? If we don’t have our foundational scriptural principles and history right, then we will follow our natural thinking process and walk in error... thereby doing HaSatan’s will. It is very difficult to deceive a man who “knows” Yahweh Eloheinu, i.e. a man or woman who has a personal, intimate, covenant/marriage relationship with Yahshua. In the natural we cannot please Yahweh. (Ro. 8:8; and Heb. 11:6) Faith and faithfulness operate in the realm of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23) Paul



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taught the Corinthians... “the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of Elohim; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” [I.e. interpreted and revealed by the Holy Spirit]. (1 Cor. 2:14)

One of HaSatan’s favorite misdirections/deceptions is that people are our enemy. Scripture records a different enemy. “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Eph. 6:12) HaSatan is a spiritual being and we must take our stand against him in the spirit realm. The natural man cannot be elevated to the spirit realm. The Apostle Paul also told the Corinthians... “though we walk in the flesh, we do not war in the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through Elohim to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations [human thoughts], and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of Elohim, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of the Messiah.” (II Cor. 10:3-5) That is why Paul told the Ephesians to put on the whole armour of Elohim that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. There is no armour in our flesh. We have to consider the “old flesh/old man” dead...because all unbelief proceeds from the old man. Unbelief is a form of disobedience which is sin. The foundational principle taught in the entirety of the Scriptures is obedience to all of the instructions of Yahweh. Nowhere in the scripture does it say that obedience in not required.

There is a form of belief taught in many denominations that others have labeled “Easy Believism.” This doctrine has de-

ceived many. Ephesians 2:8-9 is the scripture quoted as the basis of that (man-made) doctrine. “For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of Yahweh: (v. 9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.” They say that salvation is received through faith alone, and that works are not necessary. But James/Yacob 2:14-26 carries an explicit warning: That faith without works is dead. The truth is... you can’t “work” for salvation...because it is a gift. And the works we do are really obedience “because of” receiving His grace, forgiveness, and unearned mercy. The very act of believing in Yahshua is a work. So the misperception of the word “works” deceives many. Ephesians 2:10 actually clears up the meaning Paul intended. “For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yahshua unto good works, which Elohim hath before ordained [commanded] that we should walk in them.” Walk in what? Good works! All good works done by true believers are love offerings to Yahweh...and as such, are not to be considered works, but free-will responses. Good works fulfil the Law of Love, and are proof of our faith/faithfulness. Remember, Faith is a fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23)

It is imperative that all true believers in Messiah Yahshua be aware of what really is going on around them. It is a very dangerous self-deception to ignore the fact that the whole world is exposed to HaSatan’s plans of deception. The Devil does not order you to work for him; he only offers self-satisfying benefits. [Maybe] He’ll promote the idea it is okay to be a ‘worldly Christian.’ Think about that! The term “Christian” is supposed to mean a follower/disciple of the



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true Messiah of the Bible. Can a man serve two masters? (Matthew 6:24) **NO!** You cannot have one foot in the world and one foot following the true Messiah. The term “worldly Christian” is an oxymoron; and very deceptive. But HaSatan makes it “sound like” you can have the best of both worlds. What a liar! Scripture tells all true believers in Yahshua the Messiah **must** “Be sober, vigilant; because your Adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:...” (I Pet. 5:8) Make no mistake: Satan knows his time is short, and he is on the prowl...seeking your destruction!

In II Peter 2:12 Peters tells us the real deal. “But there were [past tense] false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be [future tense] false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Master [including the Master’s instructions] that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious [deadly/destructive] ways:...” Why? All because they accepted “as truth” the misapplied and falsely interpreted scriptures that were twisted into a man-made doctrine. Peter also tells us about his beloved brother Paul who has written numerous letters/epistles to the body of believers. “As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest [twist], as they do also other scriptures, unto their own destruction.” (II Peter 3:16) The very same problems they had back then...we also have right now. Old sneaky snake hasn’t changed his plan one iota! Deceive and destroy! HaSa-

tan strikes again!

Beloved readers and all Brothers and Sisters in Messiah Yahshua...Now that I have identified the problem: false teachers, false doctrines, and deception, I want to give you the “Good News.” The solution! Without a remedy we would be without hope. In the realm of the law, in order for a law to be lawful there must be a remedy. Yahweh is omniscient and in His foreknowledge His plan included the solution. What most people overlook is how far reaching and all inclusive His plan really was. He did not pre-determine mankind would sin because He gave us free-will, but He did know. This is proven by the fact that Yahshua was “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” (Rev. 13:8) Yahweh/Yahshua knew they would have to provide the only eternal solution to sin.

Before I reveal His true plan I’d like to share an example of something that happened to me back in the 1960’s. Many of us have received human advice that had a significant affect on our life. During the preparations for my marriage a “well-meaning soul” gave me some home-grown wisdom. She said... “They don’t print instruction manuals on how to communicate with your wife, marriage, and raising children. You have to learn as you go!” In my premarital bliss it never occurred I was told I was “flying blind.” Back then I already knew... Marriage – one man + one woman, which usually produced children. And after hearing there was no “Instruction Book” I just proceeded blindly. I became a father a couple of years later, but never even looked for an “Instruction Book.”

Even in our human thinking...does it really



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seem possible that an “Instruction Book” on marriage, parenting, and raising children doesn’t exist? (keep in mind this article is about deception, false teachings, and false teachers!) So there I was...told by a church-going lady that there wasn’t an “Instruction Book.” I was twenty years old and I’d been exposed to numerous churches also. But at that time in my life I was blind to the Book and to the “Truth,” and destruction followed, not only in my marriage but in other areas as well.

The greatest book on “Parenting” ever written has been preserved for 3500+ years! Over forty different writers recorded the complete instructions for living a totally righteous life...which obviously included “Parenting.” The ultimate Loving Father/Abba Yahweh authored the “Book” – The Sacred Scriptures. Let’s look at one writer – Moses, for a moment. After receiving and teaching the “Words/Debarim” that Yahweh had spoken to him 40 years earlier, he made a specific point to re-state with great particularity the instructions of Yahweh. The Bride of Yahweh – Israel, was preparing to enter the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel. The “True Church” (Heb. qāhāl; Gk. ekklēsia) was founded at Mt. Sinai. The “Marriage Covenant” was sealed and delivered to Moses for the chosen nation of Israel on the two (2) Tablets of Testimony. Now, forty years later... “These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side of the Jordan in the wilderness,...” (Deuteronomy 1:1) Please notice: If YOU were never taught that the title “Deuteronomy” Meant “Words” [Debarim] in the Hebrew language; and that all of the instructions for

righteous living recorded in the first five (5) books of Moses – the Torah, applied to all people who are joined to/adopted into the chosen nation of Israel, then wouldn’t that be a subtle deception or a false teaching? Beware: HaSatan always promotes a misconception or misperception to sow his seeds of doubt, destruction and death!

It is no accident that Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is structured like it is. Yahweh wanted us to know who he is...and that two necessary conditions were:

(v. 4) “Shema, O Yisrael, Yahweh Eloheinu Yahweh echad.”

“Hear therefore, O Israel, Yahweh our Elohim Yahweh is one.”

(v. 5) “And thou shalt love Yahweh thy Elohim with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

(v. 6) “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thy heart:”

(v. 7) “**And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

(v. 8) “And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.”

(v. 9) “And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”

King Solomon recorded a similar set of instructions regarding truth in Proverbs, “My son, forget not my Torah/Law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they



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add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of Elohim and man...Trust in Yahweh with all thine heart; and lean not to thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear [reverence] Yahweh, and depart from evil." (Prov. 3:1-4, 5-7)

Therefore...the solution is...all about teaching the truth, the entirety of the Sacred Scriptures. The Instructions of Yahweh/Torah/Law were codified at Mt. Sinai. *The Apostolic Scriptures were added as history and commentary on the Old Testament. The total message and teaching manual have been preserved in spite of man's attempt to pervert it. The Holy Spirit/Ruach HaKodesh was given to guide us and ensure we had true access, revelation, and interpretation.

Speaking as a human father, you cannot force your children to respect, obey, and love you. Neither will Yahweh force you to respect, obey, and love Him. He has given His love in ways far beyond our human understanding. He has made all of His provisions available to His children...but He won't force you to accept them. It must be a personal choice. Do not be deceived: to abide in Messiah Yahshua is all about the choices you make! "For Yahweh so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) We must love our Heavenly Father unconditionally also, and give ourselves back to Him. (Rom. 12:1)

The fundamental principle of this article is "True Teaching vs. False Teaching:" with specific emphasis on the consequences of following false teachings. The topic itself required I mention some common misperceptions...but my goal was not to ruffle the fur on anyone's "pet doctrine." I am sincerely asking all truth-seekers to consider the starting point – The foundation of all Truth, The Sacred Scriptures. **It is a major deception to acquiesce and accept a perversion of the truth or a false doctrine...just for the sake of unity.** The Word of Yahweh plainly teaches separation from errors in practices and doctrines that are man-made. **Truly, if you are not worshipping the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel, then you are worshipping an idol.** Anyone who bears false witness is a deceiver; and anything that perverts the truth...or...perverts your perception of the truth, can rightly be called a deception. All deception is a lie by definition. The father of all liars wants you to be confused, in doubt, and tossed to and fro with disbelief and unbelief. **The certainty of the words of truth always matters!**

Who is the "True Yahshua?" He is the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! Yahshua saith...I AM THE TRUTH. (John 14:6) In other words, Yahshua said "I am the embodiment of **ALL** Truth/Torah/Law/Commandments/Instructions! Remember...

Thy Torah/Law is the truth. (Psa. 119:142)

Thy Word is truth. (John 17:17)

The Spirit is the truth. (1 John 5:6)

When a true believer hears someone perverting the truth he should warn them in



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love. It is not an attack to tell someone you are afraid for them. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians he feared for them. Why? False teachers had crept in who were teaching “another Yahshua,” and “another spirit,” and “another good news.” Who would mastermind such a dastardly thing? “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of the Messiah. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” (II Cor. 11:13-14) This was only twenty-five years after the Messiah had physically been with them and performed endless miracles and healings. And now, 2000 years later, HaSatan’s plan has not varied one bit!

We need more spirit filled preachers like John (the Baptizer)! He wasn’t afraid to preach hard truth and direct teachings. The “religious folks” didn’t like it very much, but the truth-seekers **knew** it was the truth. He summed it up like this:

“John answered them and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven...He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase but I must decrease. He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. He that hath received his testimony hath set to seal that Elohim is true...The Father [Yahweh] loveth the Son [Yahshua], and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting

life: and **he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of Elohim abideth on him.**” (John 3:27-36)

Therefore, Yahweh’s plan from the beginning was to provide His children with all things from Heaven. And all parents were supposed to diligently teach all truth and instructions from Yahweh’s “Instruction Book.” They were to teach their children so they could teach their children...and they could teach their children! Generation after generation the truth would be taught and obeyed and Yahweh would provide heavenly blessings. Some of us did not have parents who taught Yahweh’s instructions for righteous living. So we need to come as little children and be taught now. In fact and truth...all of us **need** to come to Yahweh/ Yahshua and be taught the correct and true “Scriptural Basics.” And this “Offer” from Heaven is open to all; and remains part of the solution. Yahshua is calling. Will you answer today?

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. To him that overcometh [**all the deception the world throws at him**] will I grant to sit with Me on My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.” (Rev. 3:20-21)

*NOTE: We heartily thank Brother David Douglas for sharing this article with us. The serpent has destroyed through deception from the beginning as we have the story of the woman and the serpent in the third chapter of the first book of the Torah. We **MUST** come to realize that the serpent is



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still in the process of deceiving the whole world and will continue to do so until the glorious appearing of Yahshua the TRUE MESSIAH! We also always appreciate Brother David's articles as he has a good in-depth understanding and is able to present the things of the Spirit clearly and deeply for the benefit of all.

This being said, we do have somewhat of a disagreement with this statement, "The Apostolic Scriptures were added as history and commentary on the Old Testament." This is not all that they are. They are a special witness to the fact that He Who was spoken of and promised in the Torah, the Prophets, and Psalms had come! The Torah reveals that it is not in man that he can understand and follow Yahweh's word. Paul reveals that there is a law of sin in the flesh (Romans 7), which makes it impossible for man to be able to earn his own salvation. The book of Deuteronomy declares, "O that there were such an heart in them (Israel), that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!" Dt. 5:29 Again, it is stated, "For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them. O that they were wise, that they understood this, **that they would consider their latter end!**" Dt. 32:28-29.

The first covenant was actually a curse to destruction, "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in **all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.** But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of Yahweh, it is evident: for, The just shall live

by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them," Gal. 3:10-12. "Which things are an allegory: for **these are the two covenants;** the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children," Gal. 4:24-25.

We break the Scriptures down into the Old Testament, and New Testament, but they would better be addressed as The First Covenant, and The Second Covenant. That is what the New Testament is, it is showing us the weakness of the first covenant, and the STRENGTH of the Second Covenant because it is to become reality through the POWER OF THE WORD OF YAHWEH Who is Yahshua the Messiah! We agree with Brother David that Yahshua is Yahweh, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel. He is the power of Israel to be delivered from bondage to Egypt, bondage to the flesh, bondage to their own word given at Mt. Sinai, bondage to this world and its god who is Satan, the prince of the power of the air.

The Apostolic Scriptures are declaring to us that the First Covenant is a thing of the past, dead! Now, we can have newness of life with faith in the power of Yahweh/Yahshua to deliver us from bondage to destruction and into the glorious liberty of the sons of Elohim; from corruption to incorruption; from mortality to immortality.

Yahweh's laws are good for us. They lead us to understanding, blessings and life. They reveal to us what sin is. We are not to sin, nor delight in the things of sin. We are to



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walk in accordance with Yahweh's commandments. But we will never be able to perfectly fulfill them until we are changed from corruption to incorruption, from mortality to immortality.

Satan has deceived the world to declare that the law is done away under the New Covenant, when the New or Second Covenant itself reveals that Yahweh is going to write His laws on our hearts. (Heb. 8; Jer. 31) HalleluYah! But he has also been very subtle in blinding many to seek to return to the First Covenant which is a curse to destruction.

Satan has deceived the world to follow false messiahs. There is Jesus Christ of Christianity who is actually a rebel leading his followers into disobedience to Yahweh's commands. Then there is Mohammed of Islam through whom there is no salvation at

all! The prophet Mohammed gave credence to both Old and New Testaments, but the Moslems hate the Sacred Scriptures and forbid them to be allowed into any Moslem country, nor do they study them. They exalt the Koran above the revelations of the Holy Spirit (the Sacred Scriptures), which influenced Moses, the Prophets, and Apostles to write. Finally, there is Rabbinic Judaism which looks for a messiah, but denies the True Messiah Yahshua. They denied Him when He appeared and continue to deny Him to this day.

Yes, Satan is a liar and deceiver. He destroys, kills, murders through deception. We encourage all to get a good copy of the Sacred Scriptures with the true names restored in them, and learn to study, follow, and trust in them. Prove all things. Hold fast that which is good. (1 Thes. 5:21)

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