

**These Perilous Times**  
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**Is It Possible to be deceived?**

Living in ‘these perilous times,’ we expect to encounter subtle heresies that Satan is cooking up to serve to God’s remnant people. Today Satan is using a “new” and improved strategic recipe, {which includes “some good” ingredients} to show case before his evil angels and agents his “new” menu of entrees. They are very well garnished; which induces a type of salivary craving for something “new” and exciting. However, according to Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes, there is nothing “new” under the Sun. <sup>1</sup> Perhaps this means, just packaged differently?

Apparently, “the great dragon, that “old” serpent, called the Devil and Satan,” is up to his “old” tactics, taking “old” deceptions and covering them with a deceptive, superficial veneer as to make his false doctrinal methods appear heaven-sent and “new.”

Please remember the statement:

**“It’s all in the presentation.”**

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<sup>1</sup> Ecclesiastes 1:9 & 10

“... Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, **‘if it were possible,’** they shall deceive the very elect.”

Matthew 24:4&5, 24

## Counsel From God’s Messenger

“I have been shown *‘many’* who will claim to be especially taught of God, and will attempt to **lead others**, and from **mistaken ideas** of duty they will undertake a work that God has never laid upon them. **Confusion** will be the result. **Let everyone seek God most ‘earnestly for himself’** that he may individually understand his will.”<sup>2</sup>

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, **but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling.” Philippians

2:12

What does this mean for us?

## Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

God is not the author of confusion.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Selected Messages, Bk. 2, p. 72 {1893}.

<sup>3</sup> I Corinthians 14:33

## Who Do You trust?

**Scenario:** You're a new babe in Christ and you want to learn Bible truth, to whom do you go to teach you Biblical truths; a carpenter, a plumber, an electrician, commercial fisherman, or perhaps one who is a trained theological Bible instructor? Satan can, and will transform himself into to any of the above to achieve his purpose-deception. <sup>4</sup>

Satan is a Bible theological mastermind. He knows the scriptures better than any human on earth, and he can certainly pervert God's Word to confuse and ensnare well-meaning Bible students. <sup>5</sup>

Beware of so-called **"spiritual guides,"** that claim to guide you on your **"spiritual journey"** that puts you more in touch with God's Spirit, while seeking some sort higher, intellectual, spiritual awareness leading to a hypothetical "journey to a spiritual Mecca" - at the same time teaching you to chant religious mantras, lighting candles, and practicing controlled breathing, "emptying oneself," {yoga - a group of related Hindu disciplines that promote **"Unity"** of the individual with **"a supreme being"** through a system of **"postures and rituals"** }.

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<sup>4</sup> II Corinthians 11:13-15

<sup>5</sup> John 8:44

“Far Eastern” Religion i.e., Buddhism and Hindu practices and their vain philosophies should have **no place** in Christendom!

### **Counsel from God’s Messenger**

“Today the mysteries of heathen worship are replaced by the secret associations and séances, the obscurities and wonders, of spiritualistic mediums, {somebody who is supposedly able to convey messages between the spirits of the dead and living people}.. The disclosures of these mediums are eagerly received by thousands who refuse to accept light from God’s Word or through His spirit. Believers in spiritism may speak with scorn of the magicians of “old,” but the great deceiver laughs in triumph as they yield to his arts under a ‘**different form.**’

There are many who shrink with horror from the thought of consulting spirit mediums, but who are attracted by more pleasing forms of spiritism. Others are led astray by the teaching of Christian Science, by mysticism of Theosophy, {Gr. *thesophia* - “knowledge of the gods”} and other Oriental religions.”<sup>6</sup>

How soon God’s people forget the lessons learned of antiquity. Do we really want to be like the “apostate churches” and heathen nations around us?

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<sup>6</sup> Prophets and Kings P. 211.

Under no circumstances are God's people to duplicate and/or copy the methods of "spiritual Babylon" to direct the affairs and ministries of "spiritual Israel."

"...now make us a king to judge us *like all the nations*...  
But this thing displeased Samuel... the Lord said unto Samuel, hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for *they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.* "  
I Samuel 8:6&7

"And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath *a familiar spirit*..."  
I Samuel 28:6&7

He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination."  
Proverbs 28:9

Please be aware of one of Satan's new entrées, "spiritual formation," {"far eastern" pagan philosophy being presented as a "new" and improved type of spiritual awakening to "guide" new believers, part of Satan's *ecumenical* movement} which has, and is now being taught in many Bible-based theological seminaries, and Christian universities.

**How do we receive the Holy Spirit and Spiritual guidance?**

**“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalms 119:105**

If we ask anything of God, especially for His Spirit, He will grant our request when we meet **“His”** conditions; *repent* and *baptized*, and keep His Commandments. <sup>7</sup>

The **Comforter was sent to us by Jesus as our “spiritual guide,”** to lead us into all truth, <sup>8</sup> not a pope, not any human being, but the Holy Spirit.

The only way possible that the elect might be deceived is by taking their eyes off of **Jesus and His Word**, and following man-any man!

**“...when the woman saw the tree was good for food ... pleasant to the eyes ... ‘desired to make one wise’ she took the fruit and did eat and gave it to her husband with her and he did eat.”**

**Genesis 3:6**

**Remember the fall - “it’s all in the presentation.”**

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<sup>7</sup> John 14:6, 12-15; Luke 11:9-13; Acts 23:8, 5:32

<sup>8</sup> John 17:17

