



One of the most Overlooked Signs in the End Times Deception Pt. 2

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Paul went on to describe the unique challenge that believers would face as last-day's deception occurs inside the Church. He wrote that at the end of the age — in the period just before Jesus returns — large numbers of people in the Body of Christ would be led astray.

Remember — the Holy Spirit didn't tell us this to scare us, but rather to prepare us so we would not succumb to these devil-inspired tactics to affect the Church in the very last of the last days. That makes the message of these verses particularly significant for those of us born into this present-day generation of the Church.

Matthew 24:4-5 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Deception is the preeminent sign of the end of this present age.

Many Christians believe that we are already standing at the threshold of the end of this present age. Global events and cultural shifts reflect a decline in morality, a point also made by Jesus in answering the questions of His disciples.

The disciples asked Jesus for a specific sign of His coming and the end of the present age, wanting to know the exact timing and a clear indicator of when it would begin.

Jesus gave them many signs because there would be many unpleasant things happening before His return.

Often, we want simple answers to complex questions. But Jesus often does not give simplistic answers. Life is generally more complicated than just a simple answer; the End-Time dynamics are no different.

*However, observe carefully how Jesus answered their questions. Jesus began with a warning – **Matthew 24:4 "See that no one leads you astray".***

This is a loaded statement when understood in the language in which it was written.

The phrase, **'leads you astray'** is the Greek word, 'planao.' It means to lead astray, mislead, deceive, seduce, and be conned.

The word, 'see,' is 'blepo' which is better translated as 'watch out' or 'beware.' 'See' is too mild and it misses the point.

Jesus warned His disciples of deception foremost and above everything else because it is most important. *It is crucial for us, His followers living in the End Time, to beware of deception as it is a matter of eternal life and death.*

Jesus was not suggesting to His disciples to merely look out for deception. He was giving them a jolt and essentially saying, "Hey guys, be alert. Be vigilant. Watch out and beware of deception!"



'Blepo' also carries the nuance to not merely judge based on external appearance but to consider a matter carefully. Look deeper, perceive the motive, and discern the spirit behind the situation.

Jesus warned His disciples about deception, emphasizing its importance for His followers in the End Times. *It is crucial to be aware of deception, as it concerns eternal life and death.*

These deceivers will succeed in misleading God's people. In **Matthew 24:5**, **"For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray."**

We found out a couple of weeks back that the Pope falls under this category because one of his titles is "the Vicar to the Son of God", which means- The title signifies that the Pope acts in place of Christ on Earth, exercising authority in leading and guiding the Catholic Church.

It's important to note that this verse uses the word **"many,"** which comes from the Greek word *"polús."* This term signifies a large number or quantity, implying a multitude.

During the time of Jesus, there were individuals who claimed to be the Messiah, the one sent by God. However, the number of people asserting that they were the Messiah does not match the significance of the term "many" as used in this verse.

Next, let's look at the word **"anointed."** In this context, the Greek word *"Christos"* is used.

The term **"anointed"** in the Old Testament was applied to anyone anointed with holy oil, primarily referring to the high priesthood. (**Leviticus 4:5, 16**).

Leviticus 4:5 states, **"Then the anointed priest shall take some of the bull's blood and bring it to the tabernacle of meeting."** Verse 16 continues, **"The anointed priest shall bring some of the bull's blood to the tabernacle of meeting."**

Peter and the disciples understood that when Christ mentioned false figures, it included not only those claiming to be Him but also those who represented Him on earth in the five-fold ministry.

Jesus elaborated on this warning of deception two more times (**Matthew 24:5, 11, 23-28**). Many will claim to be Christ, but there will also be many false prophets and false teachers.

Jesus clarifies who He is referencing as He continues His prophecy in **Matthew 24:23-25**: **"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false Christ's and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand."**

When Jesus uses the word "many" (**Matthew 24:5**), many scholars suggest that there will be more false Christs and false prophets than there will be true anointed men and women of God teaching the truth.

Remember these words from Jesus, **Matthew 7:13-14** **"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are *many* who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.**



In this passage, Jesus speaks about false prophets—those who claim to be God's shepherds, meant to lead others, but have ulterior motives.

“Many will go in by it (be led to destruction) because many will be leading them astray.

In these end days, I believe that due to the motivational and friendly doctrine that you can do anything, being taught to people, those who truly desire the truth will be greatly outnumbered.

Be careful that we don't compromise the truth and be seduced by the method of the organization, rather than the message of truth.

Modern-day methods are good as long as they are not a substitute for the truth or compromise it.