

PARABLES

Bringing Hidden Things to Light



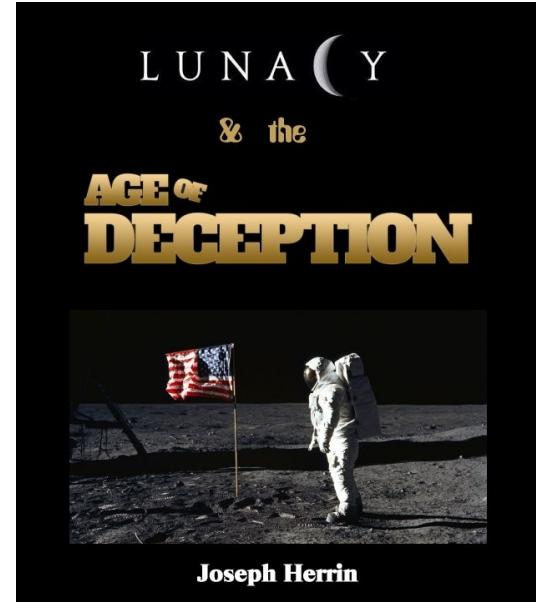
Psalms 78:2-4
I will open my mouth in a parable,

I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

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Those who deceive others hinder discovery, and this too is a disservice to mankind. By convincing people of things which are untrue, the thoughts of multitudes of men, women, and children are led astray. Additional thoughts are built on top of this foundation of deceit, and this leads to further error, and ultimately hinders the apprehension of truth.

For many centuries men believed the Earth was at the center of the Solar System. While holding to this errant thought, which was foundational to man's understanding of the heavens, they met with many indecipherable problems. For example, the motion of the planet Mars could not be ex-



Joseph Herrin

plained. It would travel in one direction, appear to reverse course for a time, then resume its original course through the heavens. This motion could not be explained as long as men held to the idea

that the Earth was at the center of the Solar System.

The lies of deceivers bear similar results today. They hinder men from discovering truth.

Food for Thought

It is wondrous how, the truer we become, the more unerringly we know the ring of truth, can discern whether a man be true or not, and can fasten at once upon the rising lie in word and look and dissembling act...

Disagreement is refreshing when two men lovingly desire to compare their views to find out truth. Controversy is wretched when it is only an attempt to prove another wrong.

Frederick W. Robertson

Scripture Memory

John 14:6

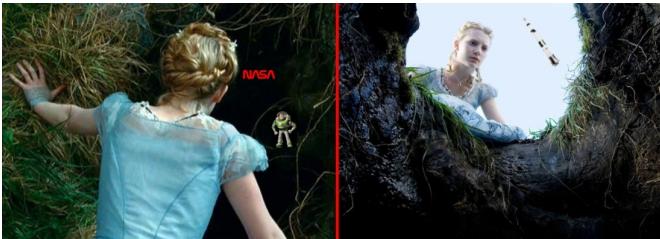
Yahshua said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Parables Newsletter

- Series 1.21.12
- *Lunacy and the Age of Deception*
- Chapters 22-23
- It Is Enough To Be A Man

Lunacy and the Age of Deception

How Deep Does the Rabbit Hole Go?



Alice Peering Down the Rabbit Hole

When an individual realizes that NASA faked the Apollo Moon landings, a common question which arises in their mind is "What else has NASA lied about?" Is the International Space Station real, or are we being duped with images of astronauts floating in space while conducting science experiments 200 miles above the Earth? Has NASA actually sent rovers to Mars, and are the pictures published of the Martian surface real, or are they another fabrication?

NASA does have some real accomplishments. They do send rockets into low Earth orbit and beyond. Satellites are real. We do benefit from space based technology such as GPS location services, satellite television and radio, and the many observations of weather satellites. These things are credible. Other claims by NASA are less believable. For reasons already noted in this writing, I do not believe man has, or ever will, venture beyond low Earth orbit. I do not believe manned space flights will traverse the Van Allen Radiation Belts, taking men to the Moon, Mars, or to other heavenly bodies beyond the domain of Earth. Man was formed of the dust of the Earth, and the Earth is his divinely appointed realm of existence.

I believe it is within the realm of possibility for NASA to send unmanned probes and equipment beyond the VARB, yet I am at the same time skeptical of their claims of making soft landings of rovers on distant planets such as Mars; operating rov-

ers remotely over the distance of millions of miles as they test soil composition and atmosphere and send back photos from the Martian surface.

There are arguments and evidence which have been presented which provide cause for doubt regarding NASA's claims pertaining to the Mars rovers. The problem for NASA is that once a person or agency has been proven to have practiced lying and deception, a loss of confidence in their trustworthiness results. As the saying goes, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." People tend to not trust those who have previously lied to them.

There is no reason to believe that NASA, the American government, or the global media, have repented from their former lying ways and are now committed to honesty and integrity. Quite the contrary. The evidence is overwhelming that they continue to lie and deceive routinely.



JPL Engineers with 3 Generations of Mars Rovers

One cause for concern regarding the authenticity of the Mars missions involves the Haughton Mars Project. NASA has the following information posted regarding this project on their website.

NASA's Haughton Mars Project (HMP) is part of an international interdisciplinary field research facility located on the world's largest uninhabited island, Devon Island. This project uses the polar

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desert setting and harsh climate of the Canadian High Arctic to mimic the environmental conditions that crew members are likely to encounter on Mars and other planets.

Devon Island's barren terrain, freezing temperatures, isolation, and remoteness offer NASA scientists and personnel a number of unique research opportunities. Other factors, such as the Arctic day and night cycle and restricted logistics and communications capabilities, offer fitting analogs for the challenges that crew members will likely face on long-duration space flights.

In addition to ongoing studies that focus on variables such as communications, equipment testing, and vehicular and extra-vehicular operations, Devon Island is also the site of the Exploration program, which aims to develop new technologies, strategies, and operational protocols geared to support the future exploration of the Moon, Mars, and other planets.

[Source:
https://www.nasa.gov/exploration/humanresearch/analog/research_info_analog-haughton.html]



Devon Island, Canada

Due to its remoteness, NASA need not worry about anyone spying on what they are doing at this location. By their own admittance they are running Mars simulations there and testing out equipment, such as the Mars rovers.

In order to film the recent blockbuster movie *The Martian*, film director Ridley Scott had to re-create the Martian landscape on Earth. I came across an interesting article in *The Hollywood Reporter* which I will cite below.



How 'The Martian's' Ridley Scott Replicated Mars in the Middle East

By Pamela McClintock

In early summer 2014, production designer Arthur Max placed two photographs on a table in Ridley Scott's Los Angeles office. Both looked much the same, revealing vast, desolate, reddish-coppery landscapes that seemed equally hostile to human life. One picture was of Wadi Rum, the high desert in southern Jordan. The other, shot by the Curiosity Rover, showed an even more remote location.

"Which one is Mars?" asked the director.

"Exactly," answered Max.

And that's how 'The Martian,' Scott's \$108 million sci-fi drama... starring Matt Damon as an astro-

Lunacy and the Age of Deception

naut marooned on Mars, ended up shooting its third act on the location that Omar Sharif described as "the sun's anvil" in Lawrence of Arabia. "I'd gone to Jordan before, when I was making G.I. Jane," says Scott, 77. "In summer, it's 120 degrees. But there's a perfection to the simplicity of the environment. There's no vegetation. It's crisp and magnificent. I knew it was the one place to do a strange planet."

[Source:
<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/features/how-martians-ridley-scott-replicated-842642>]



Actor Matt Damon and Director Ridley Scott in Jordan Desert

Ridley Scott may have chosen the Wadi Rum desert in Jordan as a convincing facsimile of the surface of Mars, but the barren Canadian Arctic can be just as convincing.



NASA K10 Rover at Haughton Mars Project Base

The image above shows a NASA rover prototype on Devon Island in the remote Canadian Arctic. Could you tell the difference between this landscape and that which NASA claims to be the surface of Mars? NASA have themselves remarked on how remarkably "Mars-like" Devon Island appears, even including craters. Following is a description of the Haughton Mars Project Base from the NASA affiliated site, Mars Institute.

The Haughton Mars Project

The Haughton Crater resembles the Mars surface in more ways than any other place on Earth. Although other locations, particularly other polar regions, may share Haughton Crater's Mars-like landscape of dry, unvegetated, rocky terrain and extreme environmental conditions, what makes Haughton unique is the crater itself.

The surface of Mars is covered with craters of all different sizes, so the terrain, like a demolition site, is made up of loose rock. The terrain at Haughton Crater is similarly covered with loose rock, making it a good analog for researching extravehicular activities (EVAs) and mining technologies. Haughton Crater is also a valuable analog for science research, since it contains an uncannily large variety of Mars-like geological features. Also, Haughton Crater resides on an isolated, uninhabited island with no infrastructure, which makes this an ideal analog for planetary exploration research.

The Haughton-Mars Project (HMP) exploration program studies the technologies, strategies, and personnel training that will be used in human exploration missions to the Moon, Mars, and other planetary bodies. HMP researchers test technology prototypes, such as K-10, a robot designed to assist humans before, during, and after human exploration missions. Because the environment is harsh, isolated, and poorly mapped, it provides an analog for testing planetary exploration strategies, such as

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safety and telemedicine. In addition to its exploration program, the HMP supports a science program, in which the similarities between this crater and the Mars surface offer insight into Mars' geology and climate.

[Source: <http://www.marsinstitute.no/#!hmp/c1441>]

Of course, all of these similarities which NASA claims exist between the location of the Haughton Mars Project on Devon Island and the Martian surface, coupled with its extreme remoteness, lack of an indigenous population, deficient mapping, and absence of vegetation, makes it an ideal location for faking the Mars rover images. Some skeptical researchers have analyzed the photos NASA is claiming to be receiving from the Martian surface and have spotted what appears to be evidence that the images were actually taken at Devon Island, or at other remote locations which NASA is known to frequent.

Some of the evidence includes what appears to be an Arctic Lemming in one photo, and bones from a whale and a walrus in other images. There is also an image of what looks like a piece of old wood lying on the ground, as well as photos showing lichen and small fossils, none of which should be present on Mars. You can see all of these images in the following video titled *The Mars Rover Hypothesis*. The discussion of the photos begins at the 26 minute mark.

https://youtu.be/DLv6_bGAJjg

The evidence presented in this video is enough for me to conclude that NASA is most probably faking the Mars rover missions in the same way they faked the Apollo missions. Suspicions about NASA fakery are not limited to Christians, or conservatives. An interesting comment is made by former President Bill Clinton in his autobiography, *My Life*:

The Early Years which was published in 2004.

I worked one week helping a sixty-seven-year-old-man put up one of Jeff's pre-fab houses in the small settlement of Story, west of Hot Springs. The old guy worked me into the ground every day and shared a lot of his homespun wisdom and country skepticism with me. Just a month before, Apollo 11 astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong had left their colleague, Michael Collins, aboard spaceship Columbia and walked on the Moon, beating by five months President Kennedy's goal of putting a man on the moon before the decade was out. The old carpenter asked me if I really believed it happened. I said sure, I saw it on television. He disagreed; he said that he didn't believe it for a minute, that 'them television fellers' could make things look real that weren't. Back then, I thought he was a crank. During my eight years in Washington, I saw some things on TV that made me wonder if he wasn't ahead of his time.

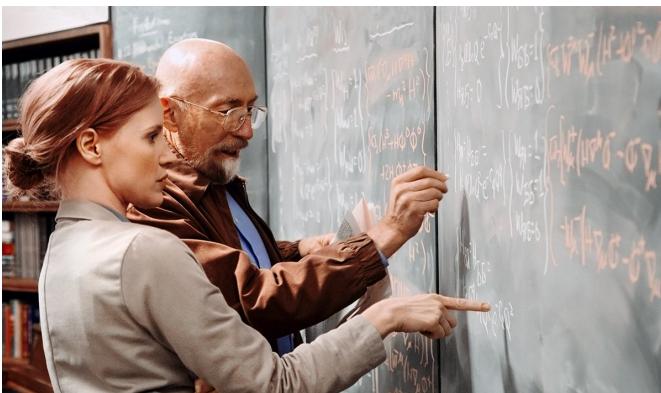
A question to answer is "Why does NASA continue to lie and deceive the populace regarding their accomplishments in space? Aside from the monetary explanation of being able to justify an annual budget of billions of dollars which can be diverted to other clandestine purposes, I am persuaded that additional motives are involved. After all, the U.S. government could choose any of a number of false projects to siphon off taxpayer dollars. Why do they continue to expand the space exploration narrative?

One obvious result of their deceptions is that mankind is being conditioned to believe manned space exploration is possible and is advancing. Most people believe the government narrative that six missions placed men on the Moon's surface beginning in 1969. They believe NASA has repeatedly placed rovers on Mars, and NASA has been asserting for decades that the next leap in space will be to send

Lunacy and the Age of Deception

manned missions to the Red Planet.

We see this same narrative entering into the human psyche through Hollywood productions. A great number of movies have been made which make manned space exploration appear plausible. The recent major movie releases of *Interstellar* and *The Martian* are but two of a steady stream of films which have seeded the thought of the practicality of sending men to other planetary bodies. My suspicions have been raised as I have observed the manner in which these movies are being pitched in the media. When the movies *Interstellar* and *The Martian* were released they were accompanied by a large number of interviews with scientists who were invited to comment on the accuracy of the science being presented in them. For example, when *Interstellar* was released, the physicist Kip Thorne began making the interview circuit in the press and on television, explaining the science behind worm-hole travel. Kip Thorne also served as a science consultant for the movie.



Astrophysicist Kip Thorne with Actress Jessica Chastain

When *The Martian* was released, a similar phenomenon occurred as the popular science speaker, Neil DeGrasse Tyson was repeatedly interviewed about the science presented in the movie. DeGrasse Tyson was interviewed on CBS' *This Morning* program where he talked about all of the science *The*

Martian got right. You can watch the interview at the link below.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/neil-degrasse-tyson-science-behind-the-martian/>

Knowing the nature of this world system, that the same people who dictate the policies of government also own the media, the question arises, "Why are they so interested in convincing people that travel between planets, and even to the far reaches of space, is possible? How does convincing the public of the credibility of interplanetary travel benefit them?" Perhaps the answer can be found in something President Ronald Reagan stated on repeated occasions. Bear in mind that Reagan was both an actor, and a political puppet of the global elite.

<https://youtu.be/iQxzWpy7PKg>

Transcript

Ronald Reagan at Fallston High School in Fallston, Maryland on December 4, 1985:

I couldn't help at one point in my discussions privately with General Secretary Gorbachev, when you stop to think that we are all God's children wherever we may live in the world, I couldn't help but say to him, just think how easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species from another planet outside in the Universe. We'd forget all of the little local differences that we have between our countries and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings here on this earth together. Well, I don't suppose we can wait for some alien race to come down and threaten us, but I think that between us we can bring about that realization.

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Ronald Reagan Speaking before the UN:

In our session, with the antagonisms of the moment, we often forget how much unites all the members of humanity. Perhaps we need some outside, universal threat to make us recognize this common bond. I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world. And yet, I ask you, "Is not an alien force already among us?" What could be more alien to the universal aspirations of our peoples than war and the threat of war?

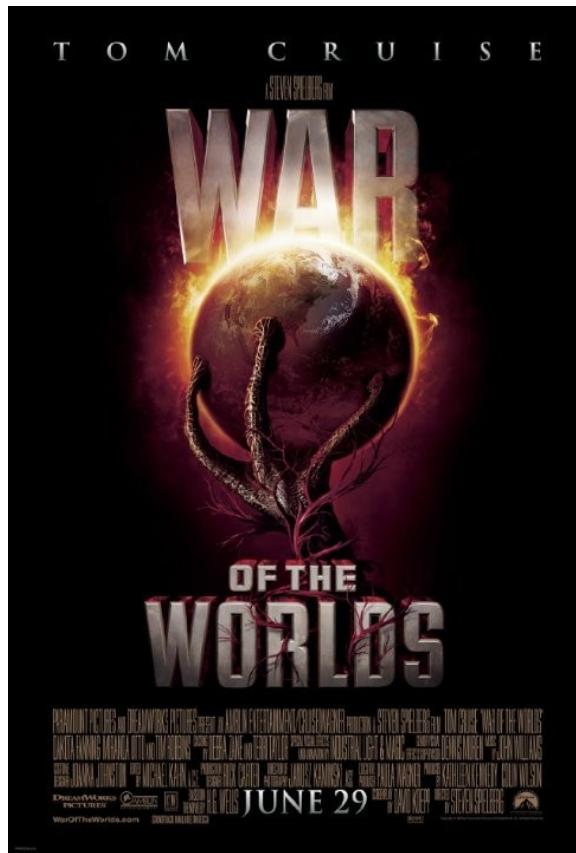
Ronald Reagan at the National Strategy Forum:

I think maybe I'd answer it this way. I keep, in my frustrations sometimes, you know actually if you count some of the things going on in smaller countries and all, there have been about 114 wars since World War II. But I've often wondered, what if all of us in the world discovered that we were threatened by a power from outer space, from another planet? Wouldn't we all of a sudden find that we didn't have any differences between us at all; that we are all human beings, citizens of the world, and wouldn't we come together to fight that particular threat?

It is doubtful that President Reagan spoke these things of his own initiative. The U.S. Presidents are selected by the powers which rule this world and they are placed under the direction of handlers. They are given speech writers, and very little of what they say or do is spontaneous or original. It is not just Ronald Reagan who has been presenting this concept of all humanity uniting in the face of an alien threat. A large number of movies and television programs have been seeding this narrative into the minds of men, women and children. I will name just a few. There was the movie *Independence Day* from 1996. In this movie an alien threat to mankind appears and begins destroying the world's greatest cities. Only by rallying all the peoples of the world together is the threat defeated.



Steven Spielberg's remake of the movie *War of the Worlds* was released in 2005. It too focused on an alien threat to all of mankind.



This same theme was explored in the 2014 movie *Live, Die, Repeat*, which was also released under the name *Edge of Tomorrow*.

Lunacy and the Age of Deception



On June 24 of this year (2016) the sequel *Independence Day: Resurgence* will be released. It focuses on the same alien race returning to Earth decades later, threatening to destroy the world once more.



There have been a great many more movies whose basic plot is precisely that which President Ronald Reagan described. The Bible reveals that in the last days a single world government will arise. This will fulfill Satan's ancient goal of establishing his rule over all mankind. It will be the resurrection of ancient Babylon where all men are once more united and Satan is their ruler. What would it take to induce sovereign nations to yield their autonomy and their distinct identity and submit to a single world ruler? Perhaps it would require a "perceived" threat

to all humanity.

Does the Bible support such an idea? As for an actual alien threat, the answer is "No." If there were alien races from other planets who would interact with mankind in significant ways, Yahweh would surely have informed us of it in His word. The Bible reveals only two distinct races on the Earth. These are men and angels. (This number may be enlarged to three if you believe demons are something other than fallen angels.) The Bible gives us adequate information about the beings man does interact with. There is nothing in the Bible to support an end time encounter with aliens from another planet.

It is not necessary, however, for an actual alien threat to mankind to occur. Satan could accomplish the same result of unifying the world under one government by faking an alien invasion. Does the Bible support such a concept? Not expressly, but neither does it exclude the possibility. We are told that "lying signs and wonders" will be common in the last days, and many people will be deceived.

II Thessalonians 2:7-12

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

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Consider the underlined words above. Satan will pull off great deceptions in the last days. The “lawless one,” that world ruler who is a servant of Satan, will appear in such a manner that it may be described as being *“in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness.”* The history of NASA has been marked with deception and false wonders. It is arguable that these words of the apostle Paul “could” describe a deception of Satan in the last days where an illusion is created of the world being visited by beings from another planet. There is much evidence to support the conclusion that Satan has been preparing mankind to believe such an event. The bold lies of NASA and a complicit media, and a plethora of movies could well argue for such an agenda.

Worth noting is that this year the television series X-Files was brought back after a 13 year hiatus. Six episodes aired. The first two episodes were focused on the idea of technology being developed covertly by men of power in this world. The technology was being used to create an illusion that mankind was being visited by aliens, when in fact the technology was terrestrial. The two episodes were titled *My Struggle* and *Founder's Mutation*.

<http://www.fox.com/the-x-files>

You can find the pertinent scenes in the YouTube video below.

<https://youtu.be/HRYYrjEnFa4>

Let me clarify that I am NOT stating that Satan is going to fake an alien invasion in these last days, nor am I asserting that the Bible teaches that such an event will occur. I am only positing that something along these lines is a possibility. I believe the global elite who have been pushing this manned

space exploration narrative for nearly fifty years have done so for purposes other than money. My purpose in mentioning the alien invasion, or benevolent alien visitation scenarios, is to exhort the Christian to be alert to deception when it does occur. Satan is capable of pulling off extraordinary illusions. He has in his arsenal of tricks “all power and signs and false wonders.”

If you are able to discern the audacity of the deceptions which have already been passed off, such as the lie that men landed on the Moon during repeated missions from 1969 to 1972, and you see that to this day the majority of people believe this lie and will respond to those who expose the lie with “the intruder’s welcome,” then you might well imagine what greater lying signs and wonders Satan may pull off in coming days.

Before the Apollo Missions, Satan used the media (books, movies, TV, magazines, radio) for decades to prime society to accept the lie of the Moon landings. What has Satan been priming men to receive in these last days? There is plenty of evidence to suggest he has been preparing mankind to believe that travel between planets is possible, and that even as man can travel to distant planets, so too can the inhabitants of distant worlds travel to Earth. Does it not strike you as suspicious that as movies are being released on these themes, that the controllers of the global media are trotting out scientists to tell people that what they are seeing in the movies is scientifically sound and plausible?

It matters not to me whether the next great deception involves visitors from other planets. What is important is that Christians exercise spiritual discernment that they might recognize the deception in whatever form it appears. It is certain that great deceptions are coming. The Bible does declare this. Christ states that the deceptions will be so profound that, if possible, even the elect of God will be de-

Lunacy and the Age of Deception

ceived.

Mark 13:22-23

For false Christs (anointed ones) and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive even the elect - if that were possible. So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.

Revelation 13:13

And he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.

Will you be able to tell the difference between a lying sign which is a work of the devil, and a true sign from God? If you previously believed that men had gone to the Moon and back, perhaps you will understand the peril that Christians face in these days. Deception is powerful and pervasive. Those who see the deception for what it is, and subsequently disclose the lies to others, are frequently branded as lunatics themselves. It is a perilous world we live in, for men prefer lies to truth, and choose to abide in darkness rather than to walk in the light.

Are some sincere, believing themselves to be honest men and women, as they mock the speakers of truth and malign the truth itself? Yes, as it has been disclosed in this series of writings, Satan has cunningly moved men out of a rational examination of these things to an emotional one. The Moon landing is tied up with feelings of national pride, and even religious conviction, for Popes and pastors have alike endorsed these falsehoods. Sharing truth with people who are engaging the world through emotions is often fruitless. Exposing the lies of the Apollo Moon missions to people is in many ways similar to talking to them about the pagan origins of Christmas and Easter. Most Christians are unwilling

to separate themselves from apostasy when that apostasy is pleasant and embraced by so many other professing believers.

The rabbit hole of deception is bottomless. Turn any direction you would in this world and you will encounter lies and illusions. Such an environment presents great opportunities for growth for those who are lovers of truth. Yet it is a perilous environment for those who do not love the truth.

Deception Identification and Avoidance



Now that we have looked at one of the grand deceptions of this present day, and it has been disclosed that lies and illusions are everywhere in this world and will only increase as we near the end of the age, the great question to be answered is "How can we identify and avoid deception?"

In this book I have sought to bring to light some of the ways in which deceivers operate. They appeal to personal biases such as national patriotism and religious belief. They employ societal leaders to shepherd the masses in the direction they want them to go. They silence, ridicule, defame, or in some other way marginalize the opposition, whistleblowers, and critics. They use peer pressure and the fear of societal rejection to gain acquiescence. In essence, deceivers employ the carrot and stick

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approach. There is something appealing in the deception, and there are negative consequences if one should refuse to go along.

If you are a lover of truth, and are willing to stand alone, buck the tide, and endure the censure of society and whatever consequences may come, you may still be daunted at the prospect of recognizing deceptions in this world. Some may feel inadequate to do the research necessary to uncover falsehood, error, or lies. Some may deem themselves unqualified to judge hoaxes which involve technical or scientific subject matter. Some may consider themselves to be ill equipped to contend with a mass conspiracy which involves government officials, all forms of mass media, educational institutions, school text books, and the collusion of men and women with multiple degrees behind their names.

The good news is that you need not be a technical analyst, or a an expert in whatever realm the deception occurs to recognize the presence of deception. No one can be knowledgeable in all subject areas pertaining to this world we live in. A person may dedicate their life to the study of the Scriptures and know only generalities in the fields of natural science and technology. Fortunately, we need not be highly educated in all matters. It is enough to know someone who has a mature understanding of the issues who can inform us of error or deception. No, I am not advocating that Christians develop a network of friends or associates who are experts in every field of knowledge and endeavor. As disciples of Christ we already have a relationship with One who is perfect in the knowledge of every subject under the Sun, and beyond the Sun. Yahshua stated:

Matthew 12:42

The queen of the south will rise up in the judgment with this generation, and will condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom

of Solomon; and behold, someone greater than Solomon is here.

If you want to avoid deception, one indispensable thing is required. You must walk closely to the one person who can never be deceived. If what I am suggesting sounds too simplistic, or so spiritually minded that it is of no earthly good, I entreat you to hear me out.

If left to yourself to rely only on your abilities, education, and understanding, are you able to recognize every lie, every illusion, and everything that is false? I do not have this ability. Neither does any man or woman born of Adam. We are finite beings. Our understanding and knowledge are finite. Even as there are people who are stronger than myself, there are also people who are smarter, have greater wisdom or cunning. Left to my own resources, I could be deceived. The same is true of every person who has ever walked this Earth, with one exception. Neither the wisest among men or angels can fool, trick, or deceive the Son of God. Jesus Christ/Yahshua the Messiah cannot be hoodwinked. Period. Not even Satan, the great deceiver who deceives the whole world, can pull the wool over His eyes.

In an hour of gross darkness where deceit is universal, there is one person I want to stay close to. That is the person who is light, in whom is no darkness or shadow. I want to walk with the One who is Truth, and who is alone qualified to judge every lie and to expose every falsehood. To borrow a metaphor used in the Scriptures, we are all like sheep. We need a Shepherd to guide and protect us.

Lunacy and the Age of Deception



Although all Christians have access to the protection, counsel, wisdom, and guidance of Christ, not all avail themselves of these divine resources. The Bible states:

I Corinthians 2:11-16

For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised... For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Although we have been given access to the wisdom and knowledge of God through the Spirit of Christ which dwells in us, many do not avail themselves of these things. The church elder James lamented the following.

James 4:2

You do not have because you do not ask.

Over the course of years in which the Lord has called me to minister through writing, I have repeatedly had Christians tell me that they were crying out to God, asking Him to guide them to truth, to give them understanding of some matter of doctrine, when He led them soon afterward to that which they sought. I too have experienced this. I have prayed many times during my life that Yahweh would teach me truth and expose error to me. I have entreated Him to show me the presence of deception and falsehood, and to guide me in the way of truth. Have you asked the same? Perhaps you do not have because you do not ask.

There is something required beyond asking, however. Yahshua does not reveal mysteries and provide counsel indiscriminately. You must qualify yourself to receive the counsel of Christ and to be granted entry to His inner circle. Not everyone who confesses the name of Christ qualifies. You cannot live a self-centered, material, or carnal life and expect to be granted access to the privy counsel of the Son of God. Years ago the Spirit of Christ showed me a profound truth, affirming this matter. The Holy Spirit drew my attention to the following verse from the Gospels.

Luke 8:10

And He said, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, in order that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.”

The Spirit of Christ had me break down this verse to understand some basic principles. One thing I was led to consider is who “you” is a reference to. The answer is found in the preceding verse.

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Luke 8:9

And His disciples began questioning Him...

I was then led to consider what a disciple is. Many Christians would quickly answer that a disciple is anyone who believes in Jesus Christ/Yahshua the Messiah as their Lord and Savior. This is inaccurate, however, and it has been the cause of many failures and evils among Christians. There is much more required than confession of certain beliefs in order to be a disciple. Yahshua stated the following.

Luke 14:26-28, 33

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple... So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his possessions."

In these words of Christ we are given specific criteria for being a disciple. A man or woman must place devotion and obedience to Christ above every other relationship in this life. A disciple must love Christ even more than his own life. A disciple must take up his/her cross and follow wherever Christ leads. A disciple must surrender all they possess to Christ. There is nothing said here about maintaining a confession in order to be a disciple. Confession and belief is important, but Christ wants more than mere lip service. He wants men and women to yield their entire lives to Him. He wants them to live as if they have been purchased by His blood and they no longer are their own.

The qualifications for being a disciple are very high. This is a truth many Christians object to. Those who are carnal, desirous of avoiding suffering, or reproach, or unpleasant experiences; those

who want to follow their own plans and pursue their own pleasures, will deny the criteria Yahshua set forth in order to be His disciple. Such ones are self-deceived, and consequently prove themselves to not be lovers of truth. If you do not love truth, the consequences are dire.

II Thessalonians 2:10-12

Because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved... for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

In the passage from Luke I quoted from above, Christ stresses that there is a very high cost to be paid in order to be His disciple.

Luke 14:28-32

"For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace."

Building a tower and going into battle are not decisions a man enters into lightly. They are decisions which must be weighed. A man must determine whether he is willing and able to commit the necessary resources to accomplish the goal. Building a tower and going to war are both expensive ventures

Lunacy and the Age of Deception

in their own way. So too is becoming a disciple of Christ. In another place Yahshua spoke to those who expressed a desire to be His disciples in the following manner.

Matthew 8:19-22

And a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." And Yahshua said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." And another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." But Yahshua said to him, "Follow Me; and allow the dead to bury their own dead."

If you require a nice home and comfortable life, you will be unable to follow Christ as a disciple. The disciple must follow in the steps of Christ. The Son of God never dictated to His Father a certain standard of living or material comfort. Yahshua let the Father determine His mode of living and experiences for Him. He was content to allow His Father in heaven to take the lead in all such matters. This is not true of many, indeed most, Christians today.

Brothers and sisters, it is a true statement that among the hundreds of millions of people who profess to be Christians today, there are very few disciples. This does not bode well for the body of Christ in coming days, for it is only the disciples to whom Christ discloses His privy counsel. To "disciples" he said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, in order that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand."

To those who would complain that this sounds elitist, take heed to what the Scriptures declare. Every person who has been born of the Spirit of Christ

has set before them the invitation to be a disciple of Christ. If you have been born of the Spirit but are not a disciple, the fault is your own. You are hindered by your own will and affections.

In the city of Corinth there was a group of believers who lived in a very affluent and pleasure focused society. This church in particular had problems with carnal desires and a lack of devotion to Christ. The apostle Paul wrote much to them, confronting and reprimanding their deficiencies. He told them that the riches of Christ were set before them, but they were not partaking of them. Why? It was not because Christ was playing favorites. The reason is disclosed in the following words.

II Corinthians 6:12

You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections.

If your love and commitment to Christ is less than your commitment to experience ease and comfort and success in this world, the consequences will become evident. Your life will be marked by an inability to discern deception and error when you encounter it.

There is one thing which will provide the ultimate safeguard against deception in this world, and that is to walk closely, intimately, in daily communion with Christ. You must be able to come to Him as the disciples did and ask Him to give you understanding. To have the privileges of a disciple you must pay the cost of discipleship. Yahshua testified the following of those disciples who walked with Him.

Luke 22:28-30

And you are those who have remained [throughout] and persevered with Me in My trials; And as My

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Father has appointed a kingdom and conferred it on Me, so do I confer on you [the privilege and decree], that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom...

[Amplified Bible]

To be a partaker of Christ's counsel, to eat and drink at His table, you must also be a partaker of His suffering. Let me provide a real life example to illustrate this matter.

In numerous writings I have taught on the pagan origins of Christmas and Easter. I have set forth the call of the Spirit of Christ to separate ourselves from that which is spiritually unclean and to not participate in holidays which are a corrupt mixture of the holy and the profane. The Son of God was the Passover Lamb, not the Easter ham.

Many Christians have read these writings, even acknowledging the truth in them, but they have continued to celebrate Christmas and Easter with their families, friends, and at the workplace. One man told me that he agreed with everything I shared in the writing titled *Removing the High Places*, but when I asked him if he was going to no longer observe Christmas in his home, he responded negatively. He said his wife and daughter would be extremely grieved and stand in opposition to him if he did such a thing. He was unwilling to pay that cost. What did Christ say was required to be His disciple?

Luke 14:26-27

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

When obedience to Christ brings a man into con-

flict with those he loves, he must choose Christ above all others. If he does not, the man is not worthy to be a disciple. What did this man demonstrate by his decision? One thing he demonstrated was that he did not love truth. It was more important to him to placate wife and daughter than to walk in truth. In essence, this man chose to allow deception, error, and falsehood to remain in his home. Why then should Christ disclose to him more truth, and reveal more deceptions when they arise? There is a principle in the kingdom of God that impacts all of us.

Luke 8:18

"Take care then **how** you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."

If you hear truth and do not obey it, you will not be given more truth. Rather, you will stand in danger of losing what truth you have already received. This is a very perilous condition to be in during this hour of growing darkness and profound deception.

Perhaps you think that if you are very wise and discerning you will be able to avoid falling for deception in the coming days. You may reason that it is not necessary to yield your life wholly to Christ so long as you are careful to examine all things closely. If this is what you believe, chances are very good that you are already deceived about a great many things. Your own abilities cannot save you from the deceptions of this world. There are cunning beings present in this world of far greater intelligence and wisdom, who have had millennia to plan their illusions. Only Christ can shepherd you safely through the coming days.

Let me clarify that walking with Christ is an indis-

Lunacy and the Age of Deception

pensable requirement for avoiding deception, but our minds and intellect do have a part to play. The Spirit of Christ may indicate to us that error is present in some matter. He may alert us to the presence of deception, but we will often be required to search the matter out in order to identify the lies. This may lead to much intense searching and study. It is very important that we heed that still small voice which whispers to us that something is amiss. If we are insensitive to that voice, or lack the patience to investigate a matter when it is brought to our attention, we will be deceived.

This is a cause of failing for many Christians. I have failed in this area in the past. I have ignored the voice of the Spirit due to spiritual dullness, sloth, or being focused on some personal goal. When I should have stopped, inquired further of the Lord, and investigated, I blew through all of the warning markers and paid the consequences for my error. The Lord will take us around the mountain again to give us an opportunity to get it right the next time.

Brothers and sisters, there has always been a need to live a surrendered life to the direction of the Spirit of Christ, but it will never be more needful than in these last days. As deception abounds and manifests with all the power of lying signs and wonders, we will need to abide in a state of communion and communication with our Shepherd. He will reveal to us the deceptions, and show us the way around them.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.

It is Enough to Be a Man

Joseph Herrin

**A mere breath against the fiery
blast, I stand,**

**though massed hordes spew
forth their perjury,**

**In solemn grandeur I contend, it
is enough to be a man.**

**Among the fallen offspring of the
first Adam, damned**

**to bequeath to mortal man such
misery,**

**A mere breath against the fiery
blast, I stand.**

**Though some evil, higher power
with malice planned**

**to contrive for man an image de-
spoiled by ignominy*,**

**In solemn grandeur I contend, it
is enough to be a man.**

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All the world, with ardent lies,
does rail and demand

that we robe ourselves with fatal
and false identity.

A mere breath against the fiery
blast, I stand.

Though man be formed of lesser
elements, of earth and sand,

he was conceived and cast to
bear the image of divinity.

In solemn grandeur I contend, it
is enough to be a man.

The cord to our creation may
seem a fragile strand,

diminished by sin's deceit, but I
go on unheedingly.

A mere breath against the fiery
blast, I stand,

In solemn grandeur I contend, it
is enough to be a man.

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Bringing hidden things to light...

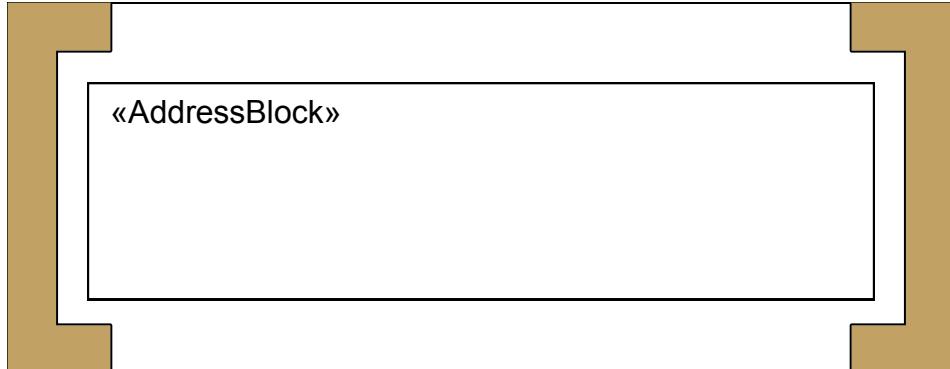
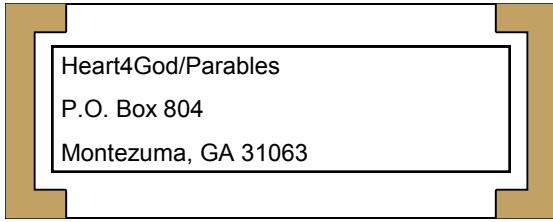
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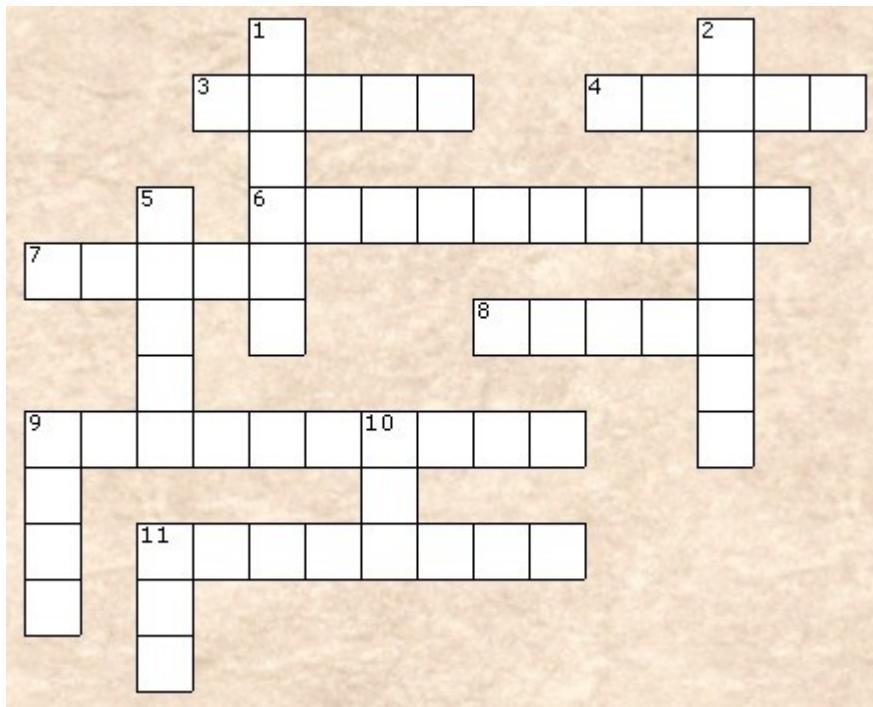
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* ignominy - deep personal humiliation and disgrace



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BIBLE CROSSWORD — FAMOUS QUOTES



ACROSS

3 For where your treasure is, there your ___ will be

4 Do not throw your pearls before ___

6 They will beat their swords into ___

7 ___ goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall

8 A land flowing with milk and ___

9 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will ___

11 Glory to God in ___

the highest, and on earth peace, ___ toward men

DOWN

1 Am I my brother's ___?

2 Ask, and it shall be ___

5 You are the ___ of the world.

9 But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of ___

10 The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are ___

11 You cannot serve both ___ and money