

FAITH & FREEDOM

LESSON 2: DECEPTIONISM

Introduction

We live in tumultuous and rapidly changing times. We might with King David ask the question, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3) I submit there are a number of things the righteous can do. We need a Biblical understanding of the events we are witnessing and the evolution of prevalent ideologies. We need to not be distracted from God's mission for us during these last days. We need to stand on the front lines and not sit on the sidelines in silence.

Where do we start?

We cannot hitch our wagon to a political platform and then champion that platform as the Christian one. We must begin with God's Word. Reality is always what God says it is. Yet these last days are an era of "deceptionism" and we are literally inundated with false information designed to sidetrack and defeat us from our Christian mission. Today's lesson will focus on Satan's agenda and strategies.

1. **Deceptionism:** deceit, often coupled with false promises, designed to cast doubt on the truth or advocate the exact opposite of the truth
2. **Satan and Deceptionism in Genesis 3:** In Gen. 3:1-5, we get our first glimpse of Satan's deception. This is the blueprint for all that follows in Satan's evil agenda.
 - What specific deceptions did Satan use?
 - What false ideology did he introduce?
3. **The Long War Against God:** What we witness in the Bible, and in life, is a spiritual battle with real world consequences. It is a battle over authority — who will reign in this universe.
 - Satan claims worldwide dominion. Job 1:6-8, 2:1-2; Matt. 4:8-10
 - He was created good and was a cherub in the Garden of Eden before his fall. Ezek. 28:1-19
 - There is an unseen battleground. Daniel 10:12-14
4. **Understanding the End Game:** Satan's end-game is to control a global government. His primary human agent is one the Bible calls the anti-Christ. 1 John 2:18, 4:3. He is the "little horn" of Dan. 7:8 and is referenced in other places, especially in the book of Revelation.
5. **Satan the Accuser:** The word "Satan" in the Old Testament means accuser. Good examples of this are Job 1:8-11, 2:3-5 and Zechariah 3:1-5.
 - For what purpose do you think Satan is an accuser?
 - How might Satan focus specific attacks on children, young male adults, young female adults, the elderly, the married, the divorced?
6. **Satan the Deceiver:** Satan is a deceiver. Matt. 24:11, 23-27; Rev. 12:1-9, 13:11-14, 20:1-3
 - A liar and father of lies. John 8:44
 - He packages lies as truth. 2 Cor. 11:14
 - We are warned about his methods that primarily wage war in our minds. Col. 2:8; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:11-14.
 - He blinds people to the truth. 2 Cor. 2:11, 4:4
 - We need to be alert. 1 Peter 5:8