

DECEPTION

Revealing the Shadow of the Traditions of Men



FALSE DOCTRINE
DECEPTION
LIES
DARKNESS
FALSE PROPHET

Murline Miles

Deception

Revealing the Shadow of the
Traditions of Men

Murline Miles

Messiah's Truth

Allen, Texas

Volume 1 | Deception

Deception
Revealing the Shadow of the
Traditions of Men

Copyright © 2013 Murline Miles

ISBN-13: 978-1481946957
ISBN-10: 1481946951

Published by
Messiahs's Truth
www.MessiahsTruth.com

521 Cedar Elm Lane
Allen, Texas 75002
All rights reserved.

Correspond with the author at: mail@messiahstruth.com

Volume 1 | Deception

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	5
A Tsunami Of False Doctrines	8
Guess What? It <u>Is</u> Possible!	10
More Is Not Always Better	11
Where Do We Start?	23
What Does “Deceive” Mean?	26
Sin Is Deceptive	36
Our Hearts Can Deceive Us	37
We Can Deceive Ourselves	39
Deception Can Be Deadly	40

Volume 1 | Deception

How To Avoid Being Deceived	41
Why All The Concern?	46
What's Love Got To Do With It? EVERYTHING!	47
Close Encounters Of The False Doctrine Kind	49

Volume 1 | Deception

Introduction

As the end of the age rapidly approaches, ha Satan is ramping up his many deceptions. Therefore, we must be on guard—using spiritual discernment and discretion—to overcome and endure to the end.

I believe my new book “Deception | Discernment | Discretion” will help the reader do three things: 1) recognize the wiles of the wicked one; 2) practice discernment with the goal of developing a more intimate relationship with the Holy One; and, 3) become a vessel to help others remove the “veil” that causes misunderstanding.

This book is the result of personal experiences that I call “Close Encounters of the False Doctrine Kind.” A Believer for thirty-one years, I have seen my share of “False Doctrines,” “False Prophets,” “Blind Shepherds,” and “False Teachers.”

In Ephesians 5:8-11, we’re instructed to “...Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is *good* and *right* and *true*), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord (Yahweh).

Volume 1 | Deception

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.” (ESV)

Although several “*unfruitful works of darkness*” are exposed in the 3 volumes of this book, it is only the tip of the iceberg. Many more volumes could be written and still not cover all of them in detail. However, this book does provide tools (based on Scripture), that the reader can use to easily identify deception, develop discernment and use discretion. You may be surprised to find that it’s easier than you may think. It just requires a *humble spirit*, a *willing heart* and a *desire to please* the Holy One.

The enemy knows that no one would deliberately choose to be deceived, so he presents subtle doses of deception with great stealth (oftentimes using those we highly esteem). Once you become aware of his schemes, you may have to ask yourself if your relationship with your pastor, bishop, teacher, rabbi, apostle or pope is more important than your relationship with the Father. Are you more concerned about what your spiritual leader would say about what you believe than the Almighty? Are you willing to investigate whether or not what you have believed is actually TRUTH? Are you willing to endure criticism,

Volume 1 | Deception

slander, and perhaps loss of relationships by standing firm on what you know is true?

Sometimes it’s hard to let go of things we’ve believed even if they don’t line up with His “Word,” but we have to remember He’s our Daddy and... “Father really does know best.”

Volume 1 | Deception

Volume 1: Deception

A wise man once said:

*“The difference between truth and error
is not a chasm but a razor’s edge.”*

*“Thy tongue deviseth michiefs; like a sharp razor,
working deceitfully.” **Psalm 52:2** (KJV)*

A TSUNAMI OF FALSE DOCTRINES

Natural disasters are rapidly occurring with increased intensity that has never been recorded before...tornadoes, earthquakes, hail storms, tsunamis, and hurricanes of late have been unprecedented. Tens of thousands of lives have been changed forever in just a matter of moments.

With the same intensity, spiritual darkness has rapidly infiltrated the Church, the Messianic Hebrew Roots Movement, and Judaism as well. Did you notice that I didn’t include any of the other “isms” that we know to be off track? Yes, those considered “main stream” today, are being bombarded with a myriad of thoughts, ideas and

Volume 1 | Deception

opinions about the Father’s Word—that are not His Words. False doctrines are surfacing so rapidly that it is becoming quite daunting to find the “*razor’s edge*” truth. Weeding through all of the spiritual clutter to find the truth can be particularly difficult if one does not have a solid Scriptural foundation or a familiarity with the origins of certain teachings.

Everywhere you turn there is a “NEW” teaching that sounds good...at least on the surface...it tickles the ears...but when you dig a little deeper, many times you’ll find that these teachings don’t come close to lining up with Scripture. Although they may contain a “measure of truth,” at best they are a mixture that leads to *lukewarm-ness* in the Holy One’s eyes.

It’s called **syncretism**, the meaning of which is: “Reconciliation or fusion of differing systems of belief, as in philosophy or religion, especially when success is partial or the result is heterogeneous.” It’s a **MIXTURE!**

This is my impression about how the Father views syncretism / mixture / lukewarm-ness: *What makes you think you can come up here to My throne room and get My attention and have a relationship with Me if you don’t desire me*

Volume 1 | Deception

only...don't even try it. (Mind you, this is my expression.)

Most people can quote **John 3:16**, but few quote **Revelation 3:16** where He said, “So, because you are lukewarm, and neither **cold** nor **hot**, I will spit you out of my mouth.” (ESV)

None of these lukewarm (false) doctrines and teachings are new. We know from Scripture that “...there is nothing new under the sun” (**Ecclesiastes 1:9**). They are just a re-make of the same old lie with a different twist – made to deceive “*if it were possible*” even the very elect.

GUESS WHAT? IT IS POSSIBLE!

The question the enemy proposes remains the same: “*Did God really say...?*” And how we respond to that question will determine whether or not we are prime candidates for deception.

All too often there is a willingness to accept a teaching as true just because the vessel delivering it is “popular;” or has “charisma;” is “well-educated;” or connected to a particular organization.

The “wolves in sheep’s clothing” are coming out of the closet in droves using stealth attraction (uniquely targeted to a specific audience); and

Volume 1 | Deception

whatever the draw, we see the elect swerving off the NARROW WAY onto the “broad road” of destruction at break-neck-speed. No longer is it just fringe groups falling for ha Satan’s lies; it’s the ones whom you would least expect that seem to be *falling by the wayside*. This infection is spreading rapidly like “gangrene” among many diverse groups. Leaders of congregations and fellowships, as well as the educational institutions where many of them studied, have been the target of the enemy’s diabolical deception. No surprise there...ha Satan’s time is short.

However, there is a “**plumb line**” we can use to prevent us from becoming another *apostate* statistic. It’s His “*sharp two-edged sword (His Word)*.” The goal of this book is to help everyone, with ears to hear, understand the Holy One’s **plumb line** regarding deception and develop the skill of discernment through practice.

MORE IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER

Before we go any further, let’s take a look at what can happen in the natural realm when so many choices are available. Something as simple as trying to find an over-the-counter headache medication could make your headache worse (right there in the pharmacy no less). Reading

Volume 1 | Deception

labels and trying to make the right choice can be quite stressful when there are so many options.

For instance, let's see how things have changed over time. Our shopping landscape has gone from local neighborhood stores to huge SUPER CENTERS. Almost fifty years ago there was only one Excedrin product, but today there are eight (a family) to choose from. Take a look:

- ✓ If you want fast-relief for your headache, take the Express Gels.
- ✓ Need to treat a migraine? Take Excedrin Migraine, approved by the FDA to treat all the symptoms of a migraine.
- ✓ Have a sinus headache? Take Excedrin Sinus Headache to relieve congestion and pressure.
- ✓ If you need a pain reliever that contains acetaminophen, aspirin and therapeutically active caffeine, then Excedrin Extra Strength is your choice.
- ✓ For head, neck and shoulder pain take Excedrin Tension Headache.

Volume 1 | Deception

- ✓ For back and body take Excedrin Back and Body because it relieves and blocks pain right where it hurts.
- ✓ If you have pain and can't sleep, take Excedrin PM. It's aspirin free and won't upset your stomach.
- ✓ Then there's the Excedrin Menstrual Complete with a triple ingredient combination to relieve five major symptoms.

(Here's one they haven't thought of yet – an Excedrin that is especially formulated to relieve FOOT PAIN. Shhhh! Don't give them any ideas. It'll just mean more *sorting* and *reading* for you.) Don't get me wrong, I'm not against progress, but at some point it just seems that “*variety is not necessarily the spice of life.*”

Is it any easier when shopping for groceries? No! Take for example canned tomatoes. You'll find tomatoes that are:

- Diced
- Crushed
- Whole
- Diced / Basil, Garlic & Onions

Volume 1 | Deception

- Diced / Habaneras
- Diced / No Salt Added
- Diced / Zesty Mild Green Chilies
- Diced / Green Chilies
- Diced / Garlic & Onions
- Stewed / Italian Recipe
- Stewed / Mexican Recipe
- Stewed / Onion, Celery & Green Pepper
- Peeled / Italian Style
- Paste
- Sauce

Actually, in 1949 the average grocery store stocked 3,700 products. Today, the average supermarket has 45,000 products while stores like Wal-Mart stock 100,000 products.¹ **Enough already!**

So what's the moral of the story? Whoever goes shopping these days had better know exactly what they want or be prepared to spend a lot of

¹<http://www.retailonlineintegration.com/article/help-customers-wade-through-consumer-hyperchoice-with-guided-selling/1#>.

Volume 1 | Deception

time reading labels. By extension, there is a spiritual application as well. If we don't KNOW the Truth, we can spend a lot of time reading or listening to false teachings that lead to error... which then leads to destruction!

Spiritually, we are instructed to "*choose life*" and it's not found in the multitudes of men's doctrines...those *dull razors*. Nor is it the same as choosing from a grocery list or some pharmaceutical variety. There is One Law for both the home born and for the stranger and there is One Lawgiver. (**Exodus 12:49**, and **James 4:12**.)

Exodus 12:49 "There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you." (ESV)

James 4:12 "There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy... (KJV)

The "law" is not what most perceives it to be; it is not just a set of hard, cold rules and regulations that are difficult or impossible to follow; rather it is a set of "loving instructions" from our Heavenly Father, who loves us and wants us to grow up RIGHT! Think of it in terms of a parent who loves his child and teaches him things like: "Don't touch a hot stove because you'll get burned." The child

Volume 1 | Deception

may think it's restrictive, but the parent's motivation is *love* and *protection*.

This is one area where nearly ALL of Christendom has been deceived. Sadly, the hands of the translators and seminary teachings are at fault here. More details will be covered on this subject in Volume 2, so I will be brief here. Let's just suffice it to say that the word translated as "law" in the (Re)New(ed) Covenant can be referring to a variety of different things such as: The leaven of the Pharisees (the oral law); the Torah (Yahweh's teaching and instruction); the TaNaKh (the entire Old Covenant); a specific command or principle, or self-effort of fleshly works.

Unfortunately, the translators lumped all of these different concepts together into one word (LAW) without any distinction whatsoever. Therefore, when we use a broad brush stroke and say things like, "We're no longer under the law, we're under grace," or "The law has been done away with," or "Jesus fulfilled the law so we don't have to," we are nullifying His ways. Rightly dividing His Word, we find that HIS LAW IS HIS GRACE! And looking further, we see that the "Old Covenant" is full of grace.

Volume 1 | Deception

Here's a question to ponder: Did Yahshua come to set us free from the Law of the Spirit of Life; or, did He come to set us free from the law of sin and death? There is a difference.

Yahshua and Paul continually confronted the Pharisees and Scribes about their erroneous, legalistic, dogmas, and the traditions of men. Many of the ones they were dealing with were Gnostics and Ascetics...or had been previously. But neither Yahshua nor Paul EVER said the TORAH (His teachings and instructions) has been done away with or is no longer valid for us to follow.

The area where ALL of Judaism has been deceived is through the **oral law** (men's teachings and instructions). In an attempt to preserve the Torah from being broken, extra laws were enacted that are legalistic, burdensome and impossible to keep. The unfortunate thing is once a man's ego has been stroked and he's tasted power, he becomes a candidate for the enemies' deception. So then the Pharisees and now the rabbis who teach their version of the Talmud (the oral law), declares that it ranks higher than Yahweh's authority and they have captured the minds of the people who follow Judaism.

Volume 1 | Deception

Maimonides stated in the Talmud, *“If there are 1000 prophets, all of them of the stature of Elijah and Elisha, giving a certain interpretation, and 1001 rabbis giving the opposite interpretation, you shall incline after the majority, and the law is according to the 1001 rabbis, not according to the 1000 venerable prophets.”* We’ll cover a lot more about Judaism in Volume 2. And just in case you’re wondering, NO, I’m not anti-Semitic; I’m just anti-Satan and **pro-Yahweh**.

If we want to be men and women after God’s own heart, we can look at David for our example and ask how he became a man after God’s own heart? Reading **Psalm 119** will shed a razor’s / laser beam of light on that question. If you stop right here and read Psalm 119, you will discover that David **LOVED GOD’S LAW** (His statutes, His precepts, His judgments, His rulings, His commandments, and His testimonies)! He tells us what truth is in verses 142 and 151. (His law is the truth and His commandments are truth.) Psalm 119 also declares His Law is: *eternal, everlasting, righteous, endures forever, a blessing a delight, life-giving, strength, truth, trustworthy, comforting, gracious, better than gold and silver, sure, makes one wiser, gives more understanding, sweeter than honey, a lamp to my feet, a light to my path, my heritage, they joy of*

Volume 1 | Deception

my heart, my hiding place, my shield, my hope, wonderful, light, true, founded forever, awesome, and peace-giving.

Let’s see if we can connect the dots:.....

(*I digress*: Seeing those dots reminds me of a game we used to play in the car on a long road trip called “connect the dots.” It’s a game where multiple rows of dots are drawn on a sheet of paper and each the player takes a turn drawing either one horizontal or vertical line connecting one dot to another until they are able to complete a square. The one who completes the square places their initials in the box and the one with the most initials after all the dots have been connected is the winner.) That really dates me because it was before smart phones, hand held electronic devices, and before DVD players were available in cars. Ah, life was a lot simpler then.

Back to the spiritual dots... **John 1:1** reads, “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (KJV) **Luke** reports in **chapter 24, verse 27**, “And beginning with Moses (the Torah) and all the Prophets, he (Yahshua) interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself” (ESV). And in **verse 44 of chapter 24**, Yahshua

Volume 1 | Deception

said to them directly, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses (the Torah), and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled (ESV). Yahshua also said in **John 14:6**, “...I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father except through me (ESV).”

The Father’s loving instructions are in His Word and who is the Word in the beginning? Yahshua! So if we’re not **studying** His Word, and not **obeying** His Word, and even worse, **denying** His Word by following those who are adding to or taking away from it, then we’re denying Him and those dull razors of deception will cut us to the core.

1John 2:24 instructs us to, “Let what you heard **from the beginning** abide in you. If what you heard **from the beginning** abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.” (ESV)

In the beginning, there was only ONE Way; but now there are thousands of Christian denominations, and of late, several denominations in Judaism as well (including Reconstructionism, Reform Judaism, Conservative Judaism, Modern

Volume 1 | Deception

Orthodox and Ultra Orthodox Judaism). “Within all of these denominations, whether Christian or Jewish, you will find them full of the “doctrines of men,” while claiming to be His truth. For this reason, we understand how vitally important **2 Timothy 2:16** is for our spiritual growth and well being...*we must rightly divide the word of Truth.*

(Ironically, even the Excedrin label states: “It’s important to use Excedrin products according to label instructions. As with any medication, if you have any questions, contact your healthcare professional.”)

How much more should we follow the Holy One’s teachings and instructions to live a godly life that’s pleasing to Him. Misusing His Word can be just as **DEADLY** as misusing a medication. However, when it comes to spiritual things, we can loose our body and our soul. (**Matthew 10:28.**)

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
(KJV)

He loves us too much to leave us to our own devices or let the enemy run roughshod over us.

Volume 1 | Deception

Therefore, He lovingly instructs us in His Truth so we can discern what is from the Holy One and what is not; what is *clean* and what is *unclean*; what is *profane* and what is *pure*; what *pleases* Him and what does not. This requires that we rightly divide the Word according to **2 Timothy 2:15**.

One version reads...

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (KJV)

Another version states...

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (ESV)

Yet another proclaims...

“Do all you can to present yourself to God as someone worthy of his approval, as a worker with no need to be ashamed, because he deals straightforwardly with the Word of the Truth.” (CJB)

Volume 1 | Deception

We are required to study – to do our best – do all we can to handle / divide / deal straightforwardly with the Word of Truth so we can present ourselves to the Father unashamed. If we find out what pleases Him (NOT WHAT PLEASES US), and do those things out of a heart of love, we will not be ashamed when we meet Him face to face.

WHERE DO WE START?

First of all, we must acknowledge that there is only “ONE WAY.” The Holy One’s Word contains His **plumb line** for discerning good from evil, and right from wrong. We cannot rely on someone else’s *opinion* (COMMENTARY) about His Word. Considering there is only one “**original**,” but many counterfeits; the more we study the original, the more we’ll be able to use *discernment* to **AVOID** falling into a **PIT** full of falsehoods.

Everything we read, hear, or see must line up with His “**plumb line**.” If it doesn’t, our razors become dull, we open ourselves up to an attack of the enemy, and we risk being led astray by a *spirit of error*. Ordering our lives according to the Holy One’s teachings and instructions is an ongoing process. It’s how we grow.

Volume 1 | Deception

1 Peter 2:2, “Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may **grow** up to salvation—” (ESV)

Ephesians 4:15-16, “Rather, speaking the **truth** in love, we are to **grow** up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body **grow** so that it builds itself up in love.” (ESV)

If we have any questions, He wants us to ask Him for the answer. **James 1:5** teaches...

“Now if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all generously and without reproach; and it will be given to him.” (CJB)

There are three kinds of people who are easily deceived: Those who hardly ever read or study the Scriptures; others who listen to a nice sermon every week—feel good about what they hear—but fail to search the Scriptures to see if what they heard is true and if it was taught in context; and lastly, those who are more passionate for

Volume 1 | Deception

knowledge than for the One Who is all knowing and they heap to themselves teachers that tickle their ears causing them to turn (if ever so slightly), from the true *razor's edge* and believe a lie. Regardless of the kind of trap the enemy uses, the end result is a **form** of godliness...denying the power thereof. Excuse my English, but: *If it ain't from the King, it don't mean a thing.*

As I mentioned earlier, lining up with the Holy One's teaching and instruction is an ongoing process...it's not a static event...nor does it happen overnight. The more we study, the more He reveals. No one has “arrived.” When He returns, He will teach us His Ways and I'm sure we'll all be amazed at how little we actually know. However, in the meantime, we should try our very best to rightly divide His Word, find out what pleases Him, and love Him with our whole heart.

One important thing I've learned through the years is that you can make the Bible say just about anything you want it to say. All you have to do is chop up a verse (do a remix); teach it out of context; add to it, or take away from it. For example, the Word states “Don't listen to the majority...” but if you remove the first word it becomes, “Listen to the majority.” If you're not studying the Word for your self, that person may

Volume 1 | Deception

deceive you into thinking that their group or doctrine is in the majority and you should listen to what they say.

Then there are those sayings that have been accepted as truth that are not even in the Scriptures, like “cleanliness is next to godliness,” or “He helps those who help themselves.” Regarding the former, you can shower five times a day, keep your house as neat as a pin, become a cleaning fanatic and still be dirtier than dirt in His eyes if you don’t know what He considers “clean” and “unclean.”

Now we’re going to find out how important it is to recognize *deception* when we hear it...read it...or see it.

WHAT DOES “DECEIVE” MEAN?

A dictionary definition for **deceive** is: 1. To cause to believe what is not true; mislead. 2. To catch by guile; ensnare, to lead another into error of *thought* or *action*.

The Hebrew word for “**deceive**” in the TaNakh (Old Covenant) is *nasha*. It is Strong’s #5377 and it means to beguile, and beguile refers to deceiving or misleading by means of pleasant or alluring methods. You might say that it’s steeped in “**smooth talking**” – a way of convincing

Volume 1 | Deception

someone to believe or act on an untruth through sweet sounding words.

Paul also speaks about this in **Romans 16:17-18...**

“I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put snares alongside the teaching in which you have been trained – keep away from them. For men like these are not serving our Lord the Messiah but their own belly; by **smooth talk** and flattery they **deceive** the innocent.” (CJB)

This is the same M.O. that ha Satan (the ultimate **smooth talker**) used in the Garden of Eden to beguile (deceive) Eve. He used four famous words: “Did God really say...” (**See Genesis 3:1.**) And he has continued to use those same words down through the centuries, even today.

Just in case you are thinking that you’re exempt from deception hold on. Are you more spiritual than Adam and Eve were before the fall? Remember, they had everything—a perfect sinless environment—a direct relationship with

Volume 1 | Deception

the Holy One; and still, a **smooth talker** beguiled Eve. *Watch out!*

For some of us, all it takes is an authoritative, charismatic personality to lead us astray. Others just follow the crowd in order to get along and not rock the boat. Usually, there is a “spirit of pride” operating in those who knowingly espouse false doctrines. And sometimes that same spirit is operating in the receivers. “My Rabbi is...,” “I sit under Bishop...” “I follow the teachings of...” or “The Pope says...” Yet, the Scriptures beg the question, “Is Messiah divided?” (1 **Corinthians 1:12-13.**)

In light of the Holy One’s plum line, the “SPIN” that men have put on His Word throughout millennia (in commentaries and other writings), is quite stunning. Hopefully, this book will serve as a warning that we should “*be on guard.*” Whether ancient or recent, commentary should be approached with caution. After all, it is written by mortal men, who came from the dust of the ground and will return to the same. Many tweak and twist His Word (making dull the razor’s edge of His Sharp Two-edged Sword) only to gain notoriety, adherents, and money. But we are not to be enticed by their **sweet sounding words**.

Volume 1 | Deception

For our part, we should tremble at His Word, acknowledge His greatness, and be in awe of His wonders. He instructs us to work out our own salvation with *fear* and *trembling*. This requires a constant, vigilant examination of all that we “read,” “hear,” “think,” and “do.” If the information or teaching doesn’t line up with His **plumb line**, then it’s not from the One Who Created us, regardless of the vessel(s) who presents it or how good it may sound.

Let’s take a further look at what the **plumb line** reveals about deception:

Matthew 24:11, “...*many false prophets* will appear and fool *many people.*” (CJB)

2 John 7, “For *many deceivers* have gone out into the world, people who do not acknowledge Yeshua the Messiah’s coming as a human being. Such a person is a **deceiver** and an **anti-Messiah.**” (CJB)

[This is a key Scripture in identifying deception.]

2 John 8 “Watch yourselves, so that you won’t lose what you have worked for, but will receive your full reward.

Volume 1 | Deception

Everyone who goes ahead and does not remain true to what the Messiah has taught does not have God. Those who remain true to his teaching have both the Father and the Son.” (CJB)

Did you catch that? If we don't remain true to what the Messiah has taught we don't have God. (DANGER, DANGER Will Robinson.²) If we come across some materials that have lots of documentation and the person has lots of accreditation, and he/she even makes a good case, but it's **not** what Messiah taught, what are we to do? Run from it and run to Him...cling to Him because He's our *Daddy!*

Take heed, you will be persecuted for standing up for what's right because the “*father of lies*” hates you and what you stand for. But if you don't stand for TRUTH, you may fall for a lie.

²“**Danger, Danger, Will Robinson!**” is a catchphrase from the 1960s' American Television series *Lost in Space*. The Robot, acting as a surrogate guardian, says this to young Will Robinson when the boy is unaware of an impending threat. In everyday use, the phrase warns someone that they are about to make a mistake or that they are overlooking something.

Volume 1 | Deception

2 Timothy 3:12-13, “And indeed, all who want to live a godly life united with the Messiah Yeshua will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go from bad to worse, **deceiving** others and being **deceived** themselves.” (CJB)

Now we see the deceivers are being deceived. This is really nasty stuff. Peter elaborates further...

2 Peter 2:1-3, “But among the people there were also false prophets, just as there will be false teachers among you. Under false pretenses **they will introduce destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them, and thus bring on themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their debaucheries; and because of them, **the true Way will be maligned**. In their greed they will exploit you with **fabricated stories**.” (CJB)

Some of these destructive heresies will be covered in Volume 2. We will also look at some

Volume 1 | Deception

Judaistic myths in the next volume that Titus alludes to here...

Titus 1:10-14, “For there are many, especially from the Circumcision faction, who are rebellious, who delude people’s minds with their **worthless** and **misleading talk**. *They must be silenced*; because they are upsetting entire households by teaching what they have no business teaching, and doing it for the sake of dishonest gain. Even one of the Cretans’ own prophets has said, “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons” —and it is true! For this reason, *you must be severe when you rebuke those who have followed this false teaching*, so that they will come to be sound in their trust and no longer pay attention to **Judaistic myths** or to the commands of people who reject the truth.” (CJB)

Jeremiah 29:8, For this is what *Adonai-Tzva’ot*, the God of Israel, says: ‘Don’t let your prophets who are **living among you** and your diviners, deceive you, and don’t pay

Volume 1 | Deception

attention to the dreams you urge them to dream. For **they are prophesying falsely** in my name; **I have not sent them**,’ says *Adonai*.” (CJB)

There is a tendency to agree with these Scriptures on a surface level, yet believe that they couldn’t apply to us because “that was then” and “this is now,” and surely we are not the ones being deceived. The irony of this kind of thinking is if you’re already deceived, you won’t recognize that you are deceived so it would be prudent to **TEST EVERYTHING**, you know just in case.

I remember a Church service several years ago where a guest speaker instructed everyone to stand up, face one another, and start prophesying to each other. I was terrified because I knew I had not received any words from God to speak to that person. *Is there no fear of the Holy One anymore? Are we to go about doing our own thing just ‘willy-nilly’?*

In another annual Christian conference (with several hundred in attendance), I recall seeing people fall down, flip over, laugh uncontrollably, and do all kinds of strange things. While everyone else was rejoicing... *I was disturbed*.

Volume 1 | Deception

What does the Word say?

Matthew 24:24, “For there will appear false Messiahs and false prophets **performing great miracles – amazing things! – so as to fool even the chosen, if possible.**” (CJB)

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10, “When this man who avoids Torah comes, the Adversary will give him the power to work all kinds of **false miracles, signs and wonders**. He will enable him to **deceive**, in all kinds of wicked ways, those who are headed for destruction because **they would not receive the love of the truth** that could have saved them.” (CJB)

Many strange supernatural manifestations are on display in diverse places around the world. In addition, there are reports and even first hand eyewitness accounts that testify of “legitimate” healings. My question is: If we see what looks like a genuine miracle, can we accept it at face value as coming from the Father? I’m not talking about some rigged, obviously fake healing but one where let’s say a person’s limb actually grew back right in front of your eyes...an undeniable miracle.

Volume 1 | Deception

According to His Word, can we just arbitrarily accept that such a miracle is from Him **OR** are we supposed to *test the spirit*?

F.Y.I., there is a false spirit called “Kundalini” that is at the root of many supernatural manifestations and healings in some of the so called “outpourings.” Those who seek after signs and wonders are often deceived by the powers of this eastern mystical occult spirit.

Please don’t get me wrong, the Holy One still heals today and still sets the captives free from demonic oppression and obsession, but there is a counterfeit and we need to be able to discern the difference.

The Scriptures discussed so far are by no means an exhaustive list, but we can gain some valuable insights from them. For example:

1. *Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.*
2. *Many deceivers have gone out into the world.*
3. *Their deception will multiply.*
4. *They will bring in destructive heresies and fabricated stories.*

Volume 1 | Deception

5. *They will devote themselves to Judaistic myths.*
6. *They will be right in the midst of the assembly.*
7. *False prophets will perform great (but false) miracles, signs and wonders.*

Keeping this in mind, we should focus our spiritual antenna on the “Word of Truth” and be *spiritually alert* at all times, having our ears tuned by the Ruach HaKodesh (Yahweh’s Holy Spirit), so that we are not led astray.

Now let’s look at some other ways we can be deceived...*according to Scripture.*

SIN IS DECEPTIVE

First and foremost we should understand that the sin of pride, doubt, and unbelief are ha Satan’s favorite methods of deception. He put doubt in Eve’s heart from the very beginning, and he continues to tempt us with doubt and unbelief as expressed in Hebrews 3.

Hebrews 3:12-13, “Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

Volume 1 | Deception

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (ESV)

OUR HEARTS CAN DECEIVE US

We continually need the Holy One’s *Razor’s-Edge-Sharp-Sword* to do heart surgery or perhaps a complete heart transplant. We must go to Him in repentance and ask Him to purify our hearts...He’s the only One Who can.

Proverbs 20:9 asks the question, “Who can say, I have made my **heart** pure; I am clean from my sin?” (ESV)

Jeremiah 17:9 states, “The **heart** is **deceitful** above all *things*, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (KJV)

Deuteronomy 11:16 warns, “Take heed to yourselves, that your **heart** be not **deceived**, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them...” (KJV)

Obadiah 1:3a declares, “Your proud **heart** has **deceived** you...” (CJB)

Volume 1 | Deception

We need our hearts washed, circumcised, and renewed by His Word (daily), because deceit is lurking within and without. **Proverbs 4:23** exhorts us, “Above everything else, **guard your heart**; for it is the source of life’s consequences.”

Prayer: Every morning we can ask Him to: “Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me, so that the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart will be acceptable and pleasing in Your sight. Teach me Your Way, O Yahweh, that I may walk in Your truth and unite my heart to fear Your name.” (See **Psalms 51:10, Psalm 19:14 & Psalm 86:11**.)

In **Hebrews 4:12** we find a powerful heart cleansing key:

“See, the Word of God is alive! It is at work and is sharper than any double-edged sword – it cuts right through to where soul meets spirit and joints meet marrow, and it is quick to judge the inner reflections and attitudes of the heart.” (CJB)

Volume 1 | Deception

WE CAN DECEIVE OURSELVES

Not only can our hearts deceive us, but we can deceive ourselves as reflected in the following verses:

James 1:22, “Don’t **deceive yourselves** by only hearing what the Word says, but do it!” (CJB)

1 John 1:8, “If we say that we have no sin, we **deceive ourselves**, and the truth is not in us.” (KJV)

James 1:26, “Anyone who thinks he is religiously observant but does not control his tongue is **deceiving himself**, and his observance counts for nothing.” (CJB)

Galatians 6:3, “For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he **deceives himself**.” (ESV)

1 Corinthians 3:18, “Let no one **deceive himself**. If any one among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.” (RSV)

Volume 1 | Deception

To summarize, we deceive ourselves when:

- We talk the talk but don't walk the walk
- We claim to be sin free
- We don't know when to keep our big mouths shut
- We think we're "*all that*"³
- We're a smart aleck instead of a Torah observant wise guy

Just kidding, sort of...

DECEPTION CAN BE DEADLY

Yes, deception can be **deadly**. We are warned against allowing ourselves to be deceived in **Ephesians 5:6-7**.

Ephesians 5:6-7, "Let no one **deceive** you with empty talk; for it is because of these things that **God's judgment is coming** on those who disobey him. **So don't become partners with them.** (CJB)

³Someone who is overly self-assertive or self-confident...cocky

Volume 1 | Deception

Whoa, Whoa, Whoa! DON'T BECOME PARTNERS WITH THEM? Would that include buying their materials, giving to their ministries, and spreading their words? The answer is a resounding **YES!** True believers can't support in any way those who lead others away from Yahweh and his Word. Charles Spurgeon once said regarding Believers, "...divisions are to be shunned as grievous evils: but how far are we justified in being in confederacy with those who are departing from the truth? Fellowship with known and valid error is participation in sin." (*Sword and Trowel*, 1887) Like Spurgeon, we have to make a choice, take the side of Truth instead of error. We are in the cosmic war between ha Satan and Yahweh.

Again, the irony is this: If we're deceived, we won't know it because we're already deceived...a real "catch 22." So what we can do to avoid deception and stay on that *razor's edge narrow way?*

HOW TO AVOID BEING DECEIVED

The most important key to combating deception is to **HUMBLE** ourselves. We have to admit that we are vulnerable to deception and that *even the very elect can be deceived*. Otherwise, spiritual blindness can descend upon us and even

Volume 1 | Deception

overtake us before we know it. If we're prideful, arrogant or haughty – thinking that we're spiritual SUPER HEROS – we can open ourselves up to “doctrines of demons” and even believe we're using discernment when in fact we may be walking in falsehoods.

As I mentioned before, the “SPIN” that men have put on the Holy One's Word throughout millennia, in commentaries and other writings is astounding. And again, we would be well served to “be on guard,” because regardless of how long a commentary has existed, whether “ancient” or “recent,” it may just be more **sweet sounding** words meant to beguile us. **Proverbs 14:15** teaches a valuable lesson:

“The **simple** believeth every word: but the prudent *man* looketh well to his going.” (KJV)

If we were absolutely honest, we'd all have to admit to walking in those “**simple**” shoes at one time or another. (I know I have more times than I care to talk about.) A dictionary definition of simple is: one disposed to believe too readily; easily persuaded; gullible. Ouch, that hurts! But the good news is we can repent and become prudent...*one exercising good judgment*. It's definitely an ongoing process.

Volume 1 | Deception

We “look well to our going” by trembling at HIS Word, acknowledging HIS greatness, and being in awe of HIS wonders as we work out our own salvation. Remember, it requires a humble heart and a constant, vigilant examination of all that we “read,” “hear,” “think,” “see” and “do.” If the information or teaching doesn't line up with His **PLUMB LINE** (100%), then it's not from the One Who Created us, regardless of the vessel(s) who present it.

In other words, we must test every vision, dream, prophecy, teaching, testimony, experience or feeling as 1 John 4:1 instructs.

1 John 4:1, “Dear friends, don't trust every spirit. On the contrary, test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (CJB)

Returning to humility, let's see what else His Word says about being **humble**.

Micah 6:8, “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk **humbly** with your God?” (ESV)

Volume 1 | Deception

Psalms 25:9, “He leads the **humble** in what is right, and teaches the **humble** his way.” (ESV)

2 Chronicles 7:14, “...if my people who are called by my name **humble** themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (ESV)

Psalms 149:4, “For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the **humble** with salvation.” (ESV)

Isaiah 66:2b, “But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is **humble** and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” (ESV)

James 4:10, “**Humble** yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” (ESV)

Matthew 23:12, “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever **humbles** himself will be exalted.” (ESV)

Volume 1 | Deception

Colossians 3:12, “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, **humility**, meekness, and patience...” (ESV)

1 Peter 5:6, “Therefore, **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that at the right time he may lift you up.” (CJB)

Proverbs 18:12, “Before destruction a man’s heart is haughty, but **humility** comes before honor.” (ESV)

Proverbs 22:4, “The reward for **humility** and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.” (ESV)

Okay if we walk **humbly** with our God:

- He leads us in what is right and teaches us His way
- He heals our land
- He takes pleasure in us and adorns us with Salvation
- He looks at us [as the apple of His eye]
- He exalts us

Volume 1 | Deception

- He lifts us up
- He honors us
- He gives us riches, honor, and life

WOW! That makes me want to be more humble. How about you?

The Father wants to search our hearts, cleanse our hearts and lead us in the WAY everlasting. All we have to do is humble ourselves and ask Him to show us the error of our ways, repent and return to Him.

Just remember, He resists the proud! Really, when you think about it in light of **James 4:14-15**, being prideful is pretty foolish, “You don’t even know if you will be alive tomorrow! For all you are is a mist that appears for a little while and then disappears. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If Adonai (Yahweh) wants it to happen, we will live’ to do this or that.” (CJB)

WHY ALL THE CONCERN?

If we are led astray by “every wind of doctrine,” not holding fast to that which we learned **from the beginning** (the Torah), then we run the risk of hearing our beloved Bridegroom say, “*Depart from Me, I never knew you.*”

Volume 1 | Deception

The consequence for those who love and practice falsehood is recorded in **Revelation 22:14**.

Revelation 22:14-15 “Blessed are those who do His Mitzvot (*Commandments*), that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city. **Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.**” (HNV)

You may be thinking to yourself, “*That’s not me, I don’t love and practice falsehood.*” Well, just hang in there and you’ll have a chance to test some things in **Volume 2 – “Discernment,”** to find out for sure.

WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? EVERYTHING!

1 Peter 1:22 states, “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the **truth** for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart...” (ESV)

If we’re not purifying our souls by our obedience to the truth (His Torah) then we won’t

Volume 1 | Deception

have sincere brotherly love where we love one another earnestly from a pure heart. If we have one foot in Torah and the other foot outside of Torah, our hearts will be divided and our love won't be pure or sincere.

John 14:15 reads, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments (ESV). And **John 15:10** teaches, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love." (ESV) Finally, **2 John 1:6** states, "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments; this is **the** commandment, just as you have heard **from the beginning**, so that you should walk **in** it. (ESV)

Some of us, because of disobedience to His commandments, are actually "*dead men walking*." But we don't have to remain in that condition. He has made a way of escape...He loved us while we were yet sinners and gave His life for us. Shouldn't we love Him enough to find out what really pleases Him and do it? Shouldn't we be willing to submit everything under His microscope to see if it really does line up with His **razor sharp two-edged sword**?

His Word gives us "*life*" **IF** we hear it **AND** obey it. Truth be told, we're probably a lot better at the HEARING part than the OBEYING part. But

Volume 1 | Deception

it's through obedience that we experience joy unspeakable and full of glory, and it's through obedience that we experience peace that passeth all understanding.

He wants us to return to Him with our whole hearts...cleave to Him...and be in HOT pursuit of Him. One way to do that is to **test every spirit**, to see if it is from the Holy One, and hate every evil way. It's part of working out our own salvation with *fear* and *trembling*.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FALSE DOCTRINE KIND

How would you respond if...

- Someone said they were reading an awesome book about God and it was so incredible they couldn't put it down and mentioned that the author didn't have to even think about what he was writing because he received spirits and the writing just came automatically.
- Someone asked if you knew that Adam had two wives, gave you the name of his first wife before Eve, and said he was surprised that even a game show contestant recently

Volume 1 | Deception

got it right when he was asked the same question.

- You were attending a small fellowship of Messianic, Hebrew Roots believers and the leader handed you a copy of a diagram of a “Tree of Life” and started describing the attributes of God.
- Someone called you and told you what a shame it was that most Believers in the Hebrew Roots movement don’t know what “Merkavah” is.
- You attended a service where the pastor was prophesying “words from the Lord” based on the names of the Hebrew months.
- Someone described meditative prayer like this: focusing on an object, or name, or word until that’s the only thing in your mind and you’ll be ready to pray.
- Someone told a story about the golem, a human shaped object made out of clay, that’s brought to life by using the names of God.
- You go to your favorite Christian bookstore and read a warning label that states, “Read

Volume 1 | Deception

With Discernment” because of the “thoughts, ideas, or concepts that could be considered inconsistent with historical evangelical theology.”

- You received a catalog in the mail titled “The Source for Everything Jewish,” and you see an item called a “Hamsa” and one called the “Mystical Eye.”
- Someone said Gentiles just have to keep the Noahide Laws.

STAY TUNED! These are just some of my close encounters of the false doctrine kind. We’ll take a much closer look into these and many others in Volume 2.

In **Psalm 119:29**, David asked the Holy One to: “Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!” (ESV)

PRAYER: *“Father, if there is any teaching that has been deposited into my heart that is not of you, please reveal it to me now so I can renounce it, repent of it, and return to You with my whole heart.”*

Volume 1 | Deception

VOLUME 2 ~ DISCERNMENT (In volume 2, we'll *sharpen our razors* even more by practicing the 7 keys for developing discernment, and we'll discover how easy it is to apply Elohim's Word to uncover deception.)

Continue with Volume 2...