

## What will be the Great Deception? Luke 21:25-28

ETS: Jesus gave us unmistakable signs for His second coming

ESS: The world will know when Jesus returns

OSS: Don't be deceived by false prophets

PQ: Are you ready for Christ's return

UW: Deception

### ME

#### Have you been **deceived** or **misled**?

- Maybe you purchased a "**Program**" that would teach you how to earn BIG DOLLARS as a seller on Amazon or in real estate, but you soon realized it wasn't as easy as it seemed.
- Maybe you took a **job** thinking you'd make a certain amount of money, but you didn't get the hours promised.

Maybe you've been deceived by a **preacher**!

- Maybe you **gave money to a preacher** who promised you that **God would give you a house, a car, or fix your marriage** IF you gave a lot of money to the church or his organization, but nothing changed!

- You didn't get your **dream car**, or a **house**, or your **marriage fell apart!**
- Maybe you went to a **Faith Healing rally**, to be healed of your cancer, arthritis, or another condition, but you you came away with the same problem.
  - When you talked about the fact that you were not healed, you were told *you didn't have enough faith!*

## **WE**

We've all been deceived in some way.

- By **false advertising**
- A Social Media influencer
- **Politicians**
- A **preacher**
- An **employer**

Deception began with **Satan** when he **deceived Eve** in the **Garden of Eden**

- Since then, **Satan** has continued to deceive people using **institutions, religion, academia, politicians,** and **organizations** by appealing to their sinful nature.
- Sometimes **deception is NOT the direct result of Satan** or demonic activity, but simple *people acting according to their sinful nature.*

After you've **lost money** in a **scheme** that was supposed to make you **rich** OR...

- You **bought that car** that was supposed to be in **good working** shape OR...
  - You **rented a room** from someone you thought you could trust, but they proved to be stealing from you or lying to you OR...
    - Whatever...

Did you ask yourself HOW you were deceived?

- Did you say “**Why did I fall for that?**”

We are **easily deceived** when **something** or **someone promises** us RELIEF from financial, health, or emotional pain.

- We are **easily deceived** when **something** or **someone promises** to be our **SAVIOR!**
- We are **easily deceived** when **something** or **someone promises** to fix our **problem!**
- We are **easily deceived** when we act purely on **emotions** and avoid critical thinking
- We are **easily deceived** when we **follow the crowd**
- We are **easily deceived** when we blindly follow the “Experts”

## How do you avoid being deceived?

**GOD**

Turn to **Luke 21**

WHY should study **Bible Prophecy?**

**Avoid Deception**

**Luke 21:8** Then he said, “Watch out that you are not **deceived**. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Don’t follow them.

- In **Matthew’s account**, Jesus uses the word “**Deceive**” 3x’s

Remember, **Satan** is a LIAR and he is the **Master Deceiver!**

- He knows that humanity is looking for a Savior so...
  - Why not deploy many **counterfeit saviors?**
  - Why not deploy the ultimate **counterfeit savior?**

What is this coming deception?

**The Great Deception:  
The Messiah Has Arrived**

More Detail about the Great Deception....

**Matthew 24:23-26:** “If anyone tells you then, ‘See, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Over here!’ not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders *to lead astray, if possible, even the elect*. 25 Take note: I have told you in advance. 26 So if they tell you, ‘See, he’s in the wilderness!’ don’t go out; or, ‘See, he’s in the storerooms!’ do not believe it.”

In Matthew’s account, you have

- **V. 23** “See, here is **THE** Messiah”
- **V. 26:** “See, HE’S (singular) in the wilderness!’ don’t go out; or, ‘See, HE’s (singular) in the storerooms!’ do not believe it.”
  - But, along with “**THE Messiah**” you have “false messiahs and false prophets” (**v. 24**)

HOW will people be FOOLED by this Great Deception?

### **The Great Deception: Uses Miracles, Signs and Wonders**

**Matthew 24:24** For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders *to lead astray, if possible, even the elect*.

- Signs and wonders were used to VALIDATE a person's message
  - **Jesus** used “Signs and wonders” to **support** His claim that He was the prophesied Messiah
    - He healed all kinds of disease
    - He raised the dead
    - He calmed the storm
    - He fed thousands from a few pieces of food
  - God empowered the **apostles** to use “Signs and wonders” to **support** the message that Jesus has risen from the dead.

“Signs and wonders” are POWERFUL validation tools!

Can **Satan** empower people to do “signs and wonders”?

- Yes, if God allows him to do so!

One of the “Signs and wonders” may be that this False Messiah is able to descend from the clouds,

- Either **faked** through the use of **technology**—which people perceive as a “sign and wonder” or
  - It can be a legitimate ability given to him by Satan.

REMEMBER: Signs and wonders are **NOT automatic validation** of the truth!

**Matthew 7:22-23** “On that day (the day of judgment) many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?’ 23 Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!’

- **WARNING:** “Signs and wonders” are NOT automatic proof that the message is true!

Just because a person can...

- **Cast out demons** *in the name of Jesus*
- Do **miracles** *in the name of Jesus*
- Can **prophesy** *in the name of Jesus*
  - *Does not mean they are from Jesus!*

So many Christians **automatically assume** that a **person** (s) who can do these things is from Jesus!

If we cannot depend on “Signs and wonders” to validate a person’s claim, **How can we avoid being deceived?**

- IF we are the “**last generation**”, that means this DECEPTION is coming in our lifetimes!
  - **How do WE avoid being deceived?**

**The Great Deception:  
The Messiah Has Arrived**

## Turn to 2 Thessalonians 2

Since Christ ascended back to heaven, there have been those who have **proclaimed** He has **returned...**

The earliest example is in **2 Thess 2:1-2** “Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him: We ask you, brothers and sisters, **2** not to be easily upset or troubled, either by a prophecy or by a message or by a letter supposedly from us, alleging that the day of the Lord has come.”

- Apparently, **letters, prophetic utterances, and messages** were **circulating** stating that Jesus **had returned!**

The **Church at Thessalonica** was a **Gentile church**, so they didn't know the **Old Testament prophecies** about the **coming Messiah**.

- Also, the **Gospels** were still being written or had not circulated into Thessalonica (*Remember, you had to copy everything by hand and it took time to painstakingly copy Scripture.*)

**In 2022, The Pew Research Group** conducted a poll about the **end times**



- **49% of Christians** say we are **not** living in the end times
  - Of the 49% who do **not** believe we are living in the end times,
    - **70% of Catholics** and **65% of mainline Protestants** do not believe we are living in the End Times.

ARGUMENT: Most people who **identify as Christians** are **RIPE** for **DECEPTION** because they **DO NOT KNOW PROPHECY** about the Return of Jesus Christ.

- **Luke 21:8** “Then he said, “Watch out that **YOU** are not deceived. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Don’t follow them.”

What **details** do YOU know about the Return of Christ?

- Do you know the **geographic location** where the **TRUE Messiah** will return?
- Do you know the **signs** that will accompany **TRUE Messiah** return?
- Do you know whether the **TRUE Messiah** will return **bodily** or **spiritually**?
- Do you know the **events** that must occur **BEFORE** the **TRUE Messiah** returns?

- Do you know WHAT the TRUE Messiah will do WHEN He returns?
- Do you know WHO the TRUE Messiah returns with?

How can we AVOID being DECEIVED? You need to know the Word of God!

*IF you don't know the answers to these questions, you are RIPE for DECEPTION!*

**2 Thessalonians 2:3** “Don't let anyone **deceive** you in any way. (notice Paul is warning against **deception** about Christ's return too!) **For that day** (i.e., the return of Jesus and “our gathering to Him” **vs. 1**) **will not come unless 1) the apostasy comes first and 2) the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.”**

- Paul is talking to the CHURCH
  - Notice Paul doesn't say “**Nothing has to happen, you will be raptured out anytime.**”

According to Paul, two EVENTS occur BEFORE Jesus returns:

1. “The apostasy” **(Next week)**
2. The **man of lawlessness** (i.e., the Anti-Christ) is revealed

## TODAY: The Man of Lawlessness

- Next Week: The Apostasy

### **The Great Deception: Connected to the Anti-Christ**

**2 Thess 2:4** “He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits in **God’s temple**, proclaiming that he is God.”

#### Studying Bible Prophecy: **Note the Location**

- **Luke 21**, two locations: Jerusalem and Judea (the Middle East)
  - “**God’s Temple**” has been always located in Jerusalem

Paul’s writings are practical application commentaries on what Jesus taught.

- **Matthew 24:15-16** “So when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place” (let the reader understand), 16 “then those in Judea must flee to the mountains.”
  - The “**holy place**” is the temple

NOTE: Paul says the “**man of lawless**” comes BEFORE Jesus returns.

### What is this coming deception?

#### **The Great Deception: The Religious will Be Deceived**

**Cosmic Chess**: Satan moved the Canaanites into the Promised Land territory, he repeated the tactic by moving Islam into that same area.

- Just like before, Satan is doing all he can to PREVENT the coming of Jesus!
  - He **failed** at **stopping** the **first coming of Christ** so now he is trying to **prevent** the **second coming of Christ**.

#### MAP of Muslim Control

- All these countries are **Muslim**, except Israel!
  - Coincidence? NO! (Remember our **COSMIC CHESS** Illustration!)

The deception will occur **in Muslim territory** in the Middle East and it will culminate when the **Anti-Christ** **desecrates the Temple**

For this hypothesis to work that means **Muslims** must also be looking for a Messiah!

What are the three **monotheistic religions** in the world?

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam

In addition to all **three monotheistic religions'** connection with Jerusalem, they have another connection: ***They are all looking for a Messiah!***

- The **Jews REJECT Jesus** as their Messiah but are waiting for the **“TRUE” Messiah** to return
- The **Christians ACCEPT Jesus** as their Messiah and are waiting for **His return**
- The **Muslims REJECT the Jewish Jesus** as their Messiah, but they are waiting for the **TRUE JESUS, a Muslim Jesus** to come -- **NON-JEWISH Jesus!**

Guess **HOW** all three monotheistic religions expect their Messiah to ENTER? By **Descending** to the Earth!

Muslim end-time theology has three main figures

- **The Mahdi**: A powerful military and political leader

- Corresponds to “**The Man of lawlessness**” i.e., the Anti-Christ (Rev. 13 et al.)
- **The Muslim Jesus**: A religious leader
  - Corresponds to the False Prophet who will DECEIVE the World into following the Anti-Christ (Rev. 13)
- **The Dajjaal**: The Muslim Anti-Christ, who will be a Jew
  - Corresponds to Jesus Christ

**The Muslims** are also looking for the **Muslim Jesus**. In the book “**The Islamic Anti-Christ**” Joel Richardson makes these observations about the Muslim Jesus. Muslims believe:

- The Muslim Jesus will also “**Descend from heaven**” just outside of Damascus.
- The Muslim Jesus will preach that **Allah** is the **true God**
- The Muslim Jesus will **declare himself to be Muslim** and will call **Christians** to convert to Islam.
- The Muslim Jesus will **destroy Christianity**
- The Muslim Jesus will **establish Islamic Shariah law** throughout the entire earth.

This is exactly what we see in the **Book of Revelation chapter 13**

- **Revelation 13:11-18** states that this **False Prophet** (“**another beast**”) will lead people to worship the Anti-Christ.
  - I think this False prophet will be the **Muslim Jesus** who **supposedly descends** to the earth to work with the **Mahdi** to convert the world to Islam and destroy the Christians and the Jews.

Given technology, is it possible to **fake a person descending to the earth** who will then emerge as the **Muslim Jesus**? Yes!

We live in an era of **DECEPTION!**

- The masses **can be deceived** like never before!

**Technology** has progressed to the point where they can project images into the **sky** that appear to be real.

- (Headline from the National Science Foundation)
- (Headline from Popular Science)
- (Headline from ????)

A video has been making its rounds on Social Media that appears to be a human-type object floating in the sky. You can hear people talking as they are gazing at this object in the daytime sky.

- I don't know if it is real or fake, but the technology may exist to do this now in the daytime sky.

What if TVs, social media feeds, and newscasts start showing an image of what appears to be a man descending from the sky?

- Will YOU believe it?
  - How will you know if it is the Second Coming of Christ or **the Great Deception?**
- WHAT if **religious leaders** (i.e., the "Experts") begin to proclaim that we are witnessing the Second Coming of Christ?
  - HOW will you know if they are right or wrong?

The **Middle East** is the **CENTER** of Bible prophecy [MAP](#) of **Muslim Control**

- Islam is the **2<sup>nd</sup> largest religion** in the world.
  - Can you imagine **1.9 billion** people accepting this Muslim Jesus?
- Not only will these Islamic countries follow the Mahdi and Muslim Jesus, but **European** countries are becoming increasingly under Muslim control and/or acquiescing to Islam's demands.
  - Islam is widely considered the **fastest-growing religion in Europe** due primarily to **immigration** and **above-average birth rates**.



If the world sees this **Muslim Jesus descending** from the sky, who performs **signs and wonders**, it is easy to see how he **“will deceive those who are perishing.”**

**OBJECTION:** What about the REST of the Religions? Why do you think they will FALL for this Deception?

In his book, *Person of Interest*, J. Warner Wallace noted that **all existing major religions** have **merged** Jesus Christ into their faiths.

**Hinduism** is the next largest religion after Islam<sup>1</sup>

- There are about **1.16 billion Hindus** in the world (primarily in India)
  - Many Hindus see Jesus (called **“Ishu”**) as a **“Hindu saint”** because of his life and teaching.
  - For many Hindus, Jesus provides an example of someone who engaged and practiced a spiritual life (much like the example set by Krishna).
  - Some Hindus acknowledge Jesus as divine,
  - Hindus acknowledge episodes from the gospel narratives, including Jesus’s birth in a stable, the visit of the magi, his ability to perform miracles

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<sup>1</sup> Wallace, J. Warner. *Person of Interest: Why Jesus Still Matters in a World that Rejects the Bible* (p. 227). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

Do you think **Hindus will be deceived** when a man descends from the sky whom people are proclaiming to be Jesus? Yes!

The Next largest religion after Hinduism is **Buddhism**

- There are **506 million Buddhist**

What do Buddhists believe about Jesus? <sup>2</sup>

- Most Buddhists respect Jesus's teaching to a high degree,
- Buddhists consider Jesus in an extremely favorable light.

Do you think **Buddhists will be deceived** when a man descends from the sky whom people are proclaiming to be Jesus? Yes!

If you **add Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism** you have **4 billion or ½ of the world's population** that holds **Jesus in a high regard** in their religion.

- If they **witness in person** or via media a person descending from the sky, who works **miracles, signs, and wonders**, and is called "**Jesus**" do you think they will follow after him? Yes!

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<sup>2</sup> ibid.

## What is this coming deception?

### **The Great Deception: Unbelievers will Be Deceived**

Will atheists, agnostics, and the non-religious fall for this deception?

- Atheists, agnostics, and the non-religious make up about **1.9 billion people** in the world.

**2 Thessalonians 2:9-12** “The coming of the lawless one is based on Satan’s working, with every kind of miracle, both signs and wonders serving the lie, 10 and with every wicked deception among those who are perishing. They perish because they did not accept the love of the truth and so be saved. For this reason, God sends them a strong delusion so that **they will believe the lie**, 12 so that all will be condemned—those who did not believe the truth but delighted in unrighteousness.”

According to the **Book of Revelation**, this “**man of lawless**” (the Anti-Christ) will be accompanied by a False prophet (Rev. 13)

According to **Rev. 13**, and Old Testament prophecies, this “**man of lawlessness**” will be **(TIMELINE)**

- A part of the **coalition** that signs a **treaty** with Israel
  - This will allow the Jews to construct their temple on the Temple Mount or at least an altar
- This “**man of lawlessness**” will lead a campaign and overtake other nations in the coalition to become the majority “shareholder”
- He will appear to be **killed** and **rise again** and as a result “**The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast.**”
  - At that point, the man of lawlessness will be possessed by Satan himself (not just a demon)
- This “**man of lawlessness, the Beast, the Anti-Christ**” will seem **invincible**.
- At that point, he will desecrate the Temple and launch an all-out assault on Christians and Jews.

This will be what Jesus was referring to in **Matthew 24:21-22**  
 “For at that time there will be great distress, the kind that hasn’t taken place from the beginning of the world until now and never will again. 22 Unless those days were cut short, no one would be saved. But those days will be cut short because of the elect.”

- Christians will be on the earth when this happens!
- Will persecute Christians
- The world will follow his government

## The False Messiah Descends (PIC)

a. Leads the world to worship the Anti-Christ

REV. 13

**Rev. 13:11** “Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.

- The “**Beast**” is symbolic language John is using to describe the False Messiah
- The “**two horns**” is symbolic language John is using to describe, I believe, the merging of **Catholicism and Islam**. (Which is already happening)

**Rev. 13:12-15** It exercises all the authority of the first beast on its behalf and compels the earth and those who live on it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. 13 It also performs great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in front of people. 14 It **deceives** those who live on the earth because of the signs that it is permitted to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

- Notice the word “**deception/deceives**” are connected to the False Messiah like in **Matthew 24 and Luke 21**

**15** It was permitted to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast could both speak and cause whoever would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.”

- I was asked if **AI** may be involved in the deception and I think this verse is John’s way of describing an **AI Robot** “The image” that will be set up to give the world instruction on behalf of the Anti-Christ. (The technology is here!)

**Rev. 13:16-18** “And it makes everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark: the beast’s name or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: Let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, because it is the number of a person. Its number is 666.”

- When the world moves to a **Digital Currency**, (CBDC) this will be possible.

Do you think atheists/agnostics and the non-religious will follow this Anti-Christ? Yes!

- Whatever you think about COVID-19, the pandemic demonstrated that many **people and businesses** will

follow whatever the government leaders tell them to do.

- The **most adamant** for following whatever the WHO, CDC, or any other governmental organization were the **non-religious**.

**Rev. 13:8** “All those who live on the earth will worship it, everyone whose name was not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered.”

If you add the atheists/agnostics and the non-religious, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhist, that accounts for almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  **of the world's population** that are ripe for DECEPTION.

Will Christians fall for this deception?

- **Matthew 24:23-26**: “If anyone tells you then, ‘See, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Over here!’ not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders *to lead astray, if possible, even the elect*. 25 Take note: I have told you in advance. 26 So if they tell you, ‘See, he’s in the wilderness!’ don’t go out; or, ‘See, he’s in the storerooms!’ do not believe it.”
  - It sounds like Jesus leaves the door open for this **possibility!**

Next week: How can TRUE BELIEVERS AVOID being Deceived?

- The Arriving Apostasy

**WE**

**PQ:** Are you Ready for the Second Coming?