

Lesson Booklet:

EXPOSING DECEPTION

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INTRODUCTION

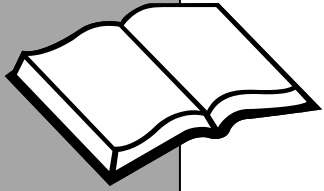
The purpose of this text is to aid the reader in a better understanding of various truths found in the Holy Scriptures and discovering for themselves how the Scriptures apply to their lives. It is the desire of this work that through this study of the Scriptures each learner will be brought closer in their relationship to their Creator as a result of these lessons.

Presented on the following pages is a series of one page lessons associated with the topic of “*Exposing Deception*”. The lessons contained in this booklet are intended only to introduce the subject at hand; further more in-depth resources are available in the online library where you obtained this booklet. Each lesson has been optimized to work best for use in a small group, but is also appropriate for individual review. In fact, if you plan to meet with others to work through this lesson book, it is highly recommend that you work through the lessons ahead of time to find answers in Scripture, as most lessons welcome discussion. When prompted for discussion, *opinions* should be heard and discussed, of course. However, a Scripture verse or passage should accompany discussions as the foundation for what the belief or opinion is based on. Study tools, such as a printed concordance or searchable Bible software to help you find the location of a Scripture that you may be having a hard time remembering, are encouraged for use with these lessons. Please remember always to study the Scriptures in context of the full passage to ensure that it properly accompanies the topic being discussed.

Concerning the source used for these lessons, please note that all Scripture quotations in this book are taken from the King James Version of the Bible. The purpose in using this particular English translation is simply because of its wide acceptance and the fact that it is public domain in the United States, allowing the text to be freely quoted without copyright restriction. From the start, readers are encouraged to have his or her preferred translation of their Bible alongside for reference while reading along.

In addition, traditional Christian terms and names are *intentionally* used throughout this lesson book to reach a larger scope of readers and help those who may be beginners in this knowledge learn with ease. Occasionally, the need to employ the use of a Hebrew term or phrase may present itself for a clearer understanding of Scripture; when this occurs, the corresponding English meaning is always supplied.

Salvation



Scripture Highlight

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

1st John 3:1-7

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

John 10:7-11

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

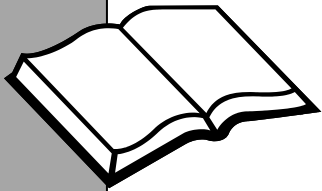
Matthew 24:21-27

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, *he is* in the secret chambers; believe *it* not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Discussion

We have a Good Shepherd, and we should know His voice and not rely on hired religious men to teach us (John 10:12-18). We do not want to be deceived into thinking we are following our Good Shepherd, but actually following another (Matthew 7:13-23, Luke 13:23-28). There is no condemnation for making mistakes because of things that you may have learned wrong in the past for those who walk according to the Spirit of Truth. Discuss what our Good Shepherd has done for us!

Living Waters



Scripture Highlight

Jeremiah 2:13-14

For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. *Is* Israel a servant? *is* he a homeborn *slave*? why is he spoiled?

Jeremiah 17:13

O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, *and* they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

Psalms 36:8-9

They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

John 7:37-38

In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Revelation 7:17

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 21:6-7

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 22:1

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

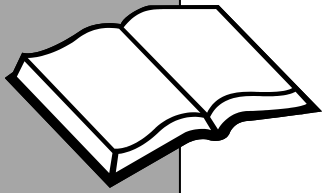
Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Group Study & Discussion

The first miracle of our Messiah occurred at a wedding. It is the miracle of His turning water into wine. The account of this event is recorded in the first half of John Chapter 2. Read this account, paying particular attention not just to the fact that Christ, Our Bridegroom, performed His first miracle at a wedding, but also the imagery of the water and the vessels. In Jeremiah 2:13 in the *Scripture Highlight* above, it is pointed out that not only have people forsaken the living waters, but have also made false cisterns that are unable to hold water of truth. One might think of this as a parable to the deceptions and lies that are taught to people from pulpits today. John Chapter 4, Christ speaks to a Samaritan woman who was the victim of false teachings. Read this account, discuss, and discover for yourselves parallels between these two events in the book of John while comparing what you learn to the verses presented in the *Scripture Highlight* above (esp. John 7:37-38).

Knowledge of The Law and Sin



Scripture Highlight

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 2:6

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 4:1-7

Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. For I was my father's son, tender and only *beloved* in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

1st John 3:4

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Study

Perhaps the largest deception on mankind is not feeling the need for *knowledge* of the ways of God. Many do not even *know* what sin is; hence, they sin without knowing it. They experience the consequences of sin without understanding. Some even choose to follow the flesh and claim that it is sin to follow God's laws – Romans 3:20 and 7:7 correct this.

Both Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 in "The Old Testament" list the Ten Commandments. Lookup the following "New Testament" Scriptures to get a quick understanding of the viewpoint of the commandments from a New Testament standpoint (the viewpoint is the same):

Luke 1:6, John 14:15, John 14:21, John 15:10, 1st Corinthians 7:19, 1st John 3:22-24, 1st John 5:2-3, 2nd John 1:6, Revelation 14:12, Revelation 22:14.

The books of The Law, called "The Torah" in Hebrew, contain the commandments of our Heavenly Father. Often, New Testament only printings of the Bible contain the addition of the book of Psalms. Examine Psalm 119, looking for occurrences of "the law" in the text. What attitude towards "the law" is displayed in this chapter?

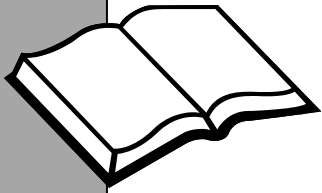
Discussion

In the beginning, Adam and Eve were given a commandment and were deceived into breaking it by Satan who pretends to be God and told them that they would be like gods as well (Genesis 3:1-5). For several millennium since, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9). And, false teachers have assisted him:

2nd Corinthians 11:14-15 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Both Satan and his "ministers" will be cast into that lake of fire (Revelation 20, Matthew 25:41), for Satan has deceived the whole world by looking and acting like God, but without the commandments written in The Law/Torah. Satan has created a false Messiah that many worship with claims that The Law/Torah is done away with. Jesus never did away with The Law/Torah. Discuss how many are deceived into *not* keeping the commandments; hence, they are often unknowingly following Satan thinking his ways are God's ways.

Summarizing The Commandments



Scripture Highlight

Matthew 22:36-40

Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

John 14:15

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:21-24

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

Discussion

One of the greatest deceptions in modern Christianity today is the idea that the commandments have been done away with and replace by only two rather vague commandments:

Love God, Love others.

However, this is not the intent of Jesus's words in the *Scripture Highlight* of Matthew 22:36-40 above. He was simply *summarizing* the commandments that everyone listening already knew.

If a person pretends that there are only two Commandments then, that person must ask themselves the following:

If you love your neighbor as yourself...

1. Would you covet his wife? His house? His stuff?
2. Would you lie to him?
3. Would you steal from him?
4. Would you commit adultery with his wife?
5. Would you kill him?
6. Would you dishonor your parents?

If you love The LORD with all of your heart, soul and mind...

7. Would you have another god before Him?
8. Would you have or worship an idol?
9. Would you use His name in vain?

Jesus's words in Matthew 22:36-40 were summarizing the Commandments that teach us *how* to love God and others!

Study

One of the Ten Commandments was left out in the *Discussion* to the left. Research Exodus 20 and/or Deuteronomy 5 to discover which one it was.

Modern Christianity has a problem with this particular commandment and chooses to ignore it (some may even consider it unimportant – see Matthew 5:19). This commandment is covered extensively throughout all of the scriptures; for instance, the entirety of Leviticus chapters 23 and 25 are dedicated to it – Ezekiel chapter 20 speaks of this particular commandment as a sign, and announces many of the judgements due to not keeping The LORD's statutes.

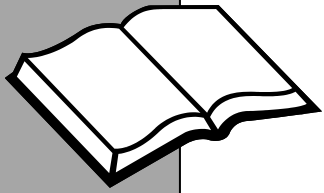
If you do not keep or know the commandments, study to show yourself approved and avoid vain talk that the commandments no longer exist (2 Timothy 2:15-16).

Question

When David sinned, he pleaded that the Holy Spirit not be taken from him (Psalm 51:11); he knew the separation that sin causes (Isaiah 59:2).

John 14:16-18 talks of the Holy Spirit as a Comforter and Spirit of Truth that the world cannot receive (due to sin). Can the modern Christian be protected by and filled with this Holy Spirit if they sin, even if they do not believe all of the commandments (see Hosea 4:6)?

The Unchanging Truth



Scripture Highlight

Psalm 89:34

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Genesis 17:7

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Galatians 3:29

And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Numbers 23:19

God *is* not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Psalm 102:25-27

Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens *are* the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou *art* the same, and thy years shall have no end.

Deuteronomy 4:2

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Study

Our Heavenly Father is the Spirit of Truth – He is forever, unchanging and does not lie. Study the Scripture Highlight above as well as the following set of verses:

Isaiah 40:8, Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, Hebrews 13:8, Hebrews 6:17-18, Psalm 33:11, Psalm 119:98, Psalm 119:160

A common deception today is that Yehovah, our God, has somehow changed the time of the Sabbath to a day other than the 7th day of the week (The 1st day of the week, Sunday, is *not* the Sabbath), changed the yearly Sabbath days (Holy Days or “Holidays”) to different days, or changed even what the definition of sin is by doing away with the law.

It is the *enemy* that deceives the whole world by attempting to change times and laws, *not* the most High:

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Discussion

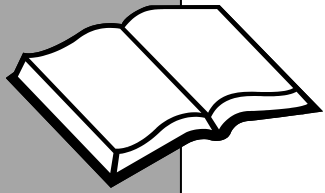
In our modern day world, the landmark boundaries of just what is and is not “sin” has been moved around many many times by our modern culture, in an attempt to deceive by redefining truth. Read together the following statutes and strong warning:

Boundaries: Deuteronomy 19:14, Deuteronomy 27:17, Proverbs 22:28, Proverbs 23:10

Warning: Colossians 2:8

Our actions have meaning! The instructions given to us in the Scriptures have *great* meaning. Discuss the importance of not moving ancient boundaries (ie: of what sin is) and a few other instances from The Law/Torah where we are instructed to obey specific commandments and statutes whose physical fulfillment of obedience also have similar greater meaning.

The Accusations Against Us



Scripture Highlight

Colossians 2:13-14

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

2nd Timothy 3:16

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Matthew 22:29

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Luke 24:27

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:44

And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.

1st Timothy 1:8-11

But we know that the law *is* good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

Study

We strive to be the Bride of Christ. We want to please our Bridegroom. But, sin has brought us the bitter curse of death and we need Christ to bring us grace through righteousness (see Romans 5). However, before the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God comes with the strength of our Messiah (our Bridegroom), we stand accused before God day and night (Revelation 12:10).

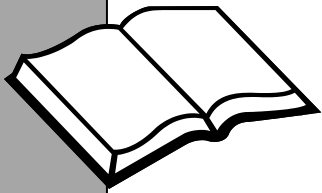
Read and study Numbers 5:11-31, which explains how a woman accused by her husband goes through the trial of drinking bitter waters. Observe that it is the *accusations* against her that are written down. Also, observe the uses of the word “jealousy” and compare with other verses such as Exodus 20:5, Deuteronomy 6:15, and 2nd Corinthians 11:2.

Discussion

Colossians 2:13-14 in the Scripture Highlight above is often deceptively used to falsely teach that the commandments of God (The Law/Torah) were “nailed to the cross” – and idea opposite to Romans 7:12. Read Romans 7, a chapter that parallels our study of Numbers chapter 5. Colossians 2:13-14 actually shows that the *accusations against us* are what was nailed to the cross.

Paul, the author of many New Testament letters, was a very scholarly man who wrote from a perspective of one who was very educated in The Law/Torah. Peter speaks of this in 2nd Peter 3:15-18 and warns that unlearned people wrestle and twist Paul’s writings. Discuss how this is still an issue today.

Beware of Unlearned People



Scripture Highlight

Proverbs 4:11-12

I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

Habakkuk 1:4

Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

2nd Peter 3:15-16

And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Matthew 15:8-9 (also Mark 7:6-7)

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

Study

Habakkuk opens his writings lamenting the burden that he is seeing iniquity, grievance, destruction and violence. He states that the Law/Torah ceases and is helpless and slacked; and that righteous judgements never go forth – that the wicked encompass or surround the righteous such that right rulings come out wrong and twisted. This is the same thing that Peter warned about (see the *Scripture Highlight* above). As mentioned in another lesson, unlearned people still wrestle and twist the Scriptures to their own destruction.

Jude writes in his letter that it is *needed* that he write them such that they *earnestly* contend for the faith:

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Why does Jude say this? Read the one chapter book of Jude. Search for what the problem is and how it relates to the topic of this lesson series.

Discussion

Imagine a well cleared level running path. By nature of a running path, it is organized for running without hazard. The Apostle Paul compares his course of life with that of a runner (see Acts 20:24, 1st Corinthians 9:24-27, and 2nd Timothy 4:7-8). The Law/Torah, given to us by our Heavenly Father, is the structure given to us such that we can run the course of our lives without hazard – receiving the many blessings of an abundant life as a result.

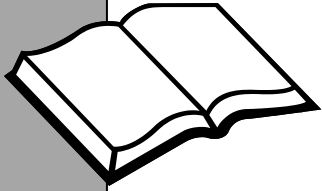
Now imagine that level clear running path being plowed up by oxen or tractor. Imagine the many ruts that would now be serious tripping hazards for any runner. *This* is what false and deceptive teachings do to the course of many people's lives.

Discuss any personal experience that you may have witnessed of this happening and what you can do to run the course of your life with joy and not hazard.

Extra

In John 16:13, our Messiah refers to the Holy Spirit as the *Spirit of Truth*. Psalms 119:142 states that “Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law *is* the truth.” Hence, the Holy Spirit of Truth is the Law of Truth. Is it possible for one who rejects the Law/Torah to be “filled with the Holy Spirit” as many such people proclaim to be? While considering this question, compare and contrast versus such as Proverbs 28:9 and James 5:16.

Are We Meant to Suffer?



Scripture Highlight

Genesis 12:3

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Galatians 3:29

And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

James 1:12-14

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Proverbs 10:21-22

The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom. The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Psalms 24:3-5

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Study

It is well known that Christ Himself suffered for us... for *our* sins (Peter mentions this in 1st Peter 3:18-20). James mentions in his letter the suffering of the prophets and even the endurance of Job (James 5:10-11). However, most suffering today is not as noble... people today often suffer, and are under curses, *because of their own sins*. Christians may mistake this as a noble thing; but, it is not. We are meant to live a full satisfying abundant life (John 10:10), but this blessing is *conditional*. Read and compare Exodus 20:5-6 and Exodus 34:6-7 (also Deuteronomy 7:9-12) to discover what this condition is and has been from the beginning. Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and choose life.

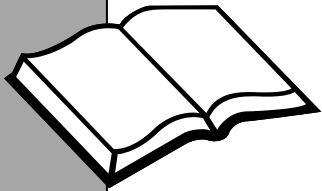
Discussion

We are not meant to suffer from the curses of sin. But, just *believing* that there is a God will not deliver you – even the demons believe and tremble. Faith is good, but both faith and the righteous works of obedience is much better:

James 2:18-20 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Faith was Abraham's starting point (Romans 4:1-22), and it was credited to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6), and Abraham continued in works of righteousness. The blessings and curses in chapters like Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 are all *conditional*. Long before these conditions were written down, Abraham understood this. Read and discuss Deuteronomy 11:26-28. Also discuss the following concept: You are saved by grace if and only if you begin to keep the commandments. This is your good works. That is when grace is applied. Until that moment, you are not saved by grace. As long as you keep on sinning (and sin is the transgression of the law, see 1st John 3:4), then you have no grace applied to you. This is what "*repenting*" means: you have turned from your sins and are now going to keep the commandments. Once you do this, then and only then, does grace get applied. For grace brings salvation by teaching us not to sin (Titus 2:11-12).

Prediction of Solomon



Scripture Highlight

1st Kings 8:30-40

And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive. If any man trespass against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house: Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness. When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers. When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance. If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, *or* if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness *there be*; What prayer and supplication soever be *mad* by any man, *or* by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, *even* thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;) That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.

Leviticus 26:40-42

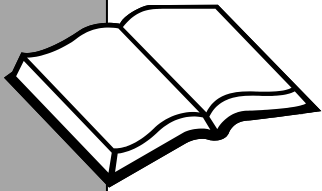
If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me; And *that* I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land.

Group Study & Discussion

King Solomon, in his wisdom, predicted what might happen to Israel if the people did not obey the commandments and statutes given to them in the Law/Torah. A king of Israel was required to write out for himself a copy of Law/Torah and read it all of the days of his life so that his heart would be right in order that he may continue long in his kingdom (see Deuteronomy 17:18-20). Because of this, Solomon was very aware at that time of what the curses were, described in Leviticus 26 and elsewhere. In addition, he knew what the people must do when these curses come upon them.

Daniel 9:1-19 records Daniel's confession and prayer of repentance when he realizes the curses that had come to pass after calculating for himself how long the land would rest (verse 2) according to Leviticus 26:43. It is a deception to ignore sin and the obvious consequences of sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves; we should confess our sins, and ask forgiveness (1st John 1:8-10). Read all of these passages mentioned and discuss the dangers and deception of ignoring sin.

The Rapture Deception



Scripture Highlight

Matthew 24:29-31

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Luke 21:27-28

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Revelation 1:7

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Study

There is no secret event, called *The Rapture*, where people mysteriously disappear and only bad people are left behind. This is a myth and a deception. The *Scripture Highlight* above makes it very clear that every eye will see our Messiah when He returns; this will be a very loud and visible event, and we will be looking up to see Him. As in the days of Noah, *you want to be left behind* (Matthew 24:37-41) because the meek inherit the Earth (Matthew 5:5) while the wicked are killed/taken for judgement (Revelation 11:15-18, Matthew 25:31-33)! When that door is shut, it is final (Luke 17:27, Matthew 25:10).

Read together 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1st Corinthians 15:50-53. When the last trumpet sounds and the Lord Himself descends from heaven with a very loud shout (note, this is a very loud event... not a secret happening), the saints who have died in the past will be raised and the saints who are still alive will be transformed into new incorruptible immortal bodies.

Once again, there is nothing secret about the return of our Messiah. We are told not to be ignorant about this (1st Thessalonians 4:13). We are given the holy days of Leviticus 23 which show us the plan of things to come (Colossians 2:17). The Feast of Trumpets, in particular, is the holy day each year that one can know the season of, approximating the time, but only our Heavenly Father knows the day or the hour each year that the seventh month of the year will start with the sighting of the first sliver of the new moon – *this* is what is alluded to in Matthew 24:42 and 25:13. Sadly, only a small portion of those who profess to know our King are willing to come to His Feasts, His holy appointed days each year, refusing even to honor the weekly Sabbath each week. *This* is the meaning of the parable of the wedding feast in Matthew 22:1-14.

There will be great tribulation that will last many, many days – indeed, many years. There are blessings to him that overcomes (Revelation 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12, 3:21), do not be deceived by false doctrines in these latter times (1st Timothy 4:1, 2nd Peter 2:1), such as The Rapture deception which leaves one unprepared and cause one to be scoffed at (2nd Peter 3:3-4) and cause a great falling way (2nd Thessalonians 2:3). Be strong, learn and teach the truth instead – knowing that during those troublesome times, the Spirit of Truth will be there to help us (Daniel 11:32-34).

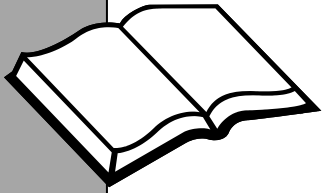
Discussion

What good comes out of the Rapture lie? Do teachers of this deception need to learn or know actual prophecy? Does this deception allow people to remain complacent or cause people to prepare? Do people live better, more obedient, lives because of a belief in the Rapture, or do they rely on a second chance?

The Last Days

The final 4820 days (about 13 years):
2300 days – Daniel 8:4
1260 days – Revelation 11:3
1260 days – Revelation 11:9-11

The False Holy Days Deception



Scripture Highlight

Jeremiah 10:1-4

Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people *are* vain: for *one* cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

Amos 5:26

But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.

Act 7:42-43

Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices *by the space of* forty years in the wilderness? Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.

Ezekiel 8:13-14

He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, *and* thou shalt see greater abominations that they do. Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

Leviticus 23:1-2

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *even these are* my feasts.

Group Study & Discussion

Learn not the way of the heathen! Obviously, Sunday is not the Sabbath. Christmas, Easter, and many other man made holidays are not holy days either. In fact, many holidays are actually witchcraft in disguise. Christmas is the worship of Moloch, the god Ba'al, which is condemned in the Old Testament; that star on top of the Christmas tree is the sign of a false god (known by the Romans as Saturnalia worship). Consider the "Christmas Tree" when reading the *Scripture Highlight* above. Consider also what Ezekiel was shown: the 40 days of weeping for the false god Tammuz before the first Sunday after the first full moon after the equinox in early spring ("Easter Sunday") where pagans worship the fertility goddess known as Queen of Heaven is known today as the 40 days of Lent. "Sunrise Services" are a direct form of sun god worship.

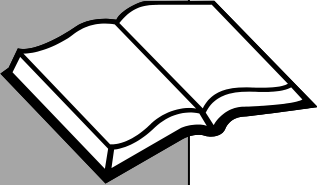
The very first commandment tells us to put no false gods before His face (Exodus 20:3, Deuteronomy 5:7); in fact, we should not even speak the names of false gods (Exodus 23:13). Likewise, we should not learn these pagan ways (Deuteronomy 12:29-32, Leviticus 18:1-5 & 18:30). Study the following passages to learn of warnings concerning Moloch in particular: *Leviticus 18:21 & 20:2, 2nd Kings 23:10, Jeremiah 32:35; see also Ezekiel 23:39, Jeremiah 19:1-15 & 7:20-31 & 8:1-2 & 32:28-35.* One might ask, "How did this happen in Israel?" King Solomon's many wives brought in the worship of the Queen of Heaven, known as Easter/Ashtoreth/Astarte (1st Kings 11:1-13) which led to later generations being familiar with this paganism (2nd Kings 16:1-4 & 23:1-28, 2nd Chronicles 28:3 & 33:1-9). However, this problem with Easter/Ashtoreth/Astarte can be found all the way back to the book of Judges (Judges 10:6).

Be VERY weary... *any* holy day not outlined in the pages of Leviticus 23 must be examined closely. We are not to add to or take away from the Scriptures. Multiple lessons could be written on this topic (ie: *Halloween*, any type of winter *Festival of Lights*, and many more); however, the intent of this lesson is to simply introduce this subject. Discuss and expand on this topic for the benefit of others in your group. Consider researching online to better identify these pagan holidays to avoid.

Do Not Be Deceived

Scripture Highlight

Matthew 7:13-23



Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Luke 13:23-28

Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you *yourselves* thrust out.

Matthew 19:17

And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

1st John 2:4

He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1st John 4:1

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2nd Corinthians 11:13-15

For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Ephesians 5:6

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Philippians 2:12

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Discussion

“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:” (Genesis 3:4) – He lied; Eve died (see also 2nd Corinthians 11:14-15). The two longer Scripture passages in the *Scripture Highlight* above should be some of the scariest words in the New Testament for the modern Christian to read. It’s not just that we know Him, but rather that we ask ourselves the question: Does He know us? Read 1st John 2:4 above very carefully. Discuss the importance of all of these Scriptures, share others that you feel might help the discussion, and always remember to study and show yourselves approved (read together 2nd Timothy 2:15).