

Everlasting Gospel Bible Studies

Lesson 16

SATAN'S DECEPTIVE MASTERPIECE



Satan is constantly seeking to deceive us. One of his very successful deceptions is that in some manner we live on after death, and go immediately to heaven or to another of his deceptions, an ever-burning hell. But the Bible clearly indicates that the dead sleep in the grave until Christ's return to the earth. A correct understanding of this truth is vital to preserve us from Satan's deceptions. If we do not understand this truth as explained in the Bible we make ourselves very vulnerable to one of Satan's greatest deceptions—spiritism.

Many people seek answers or assurance in their lives by turning to spirit mediums who claim to communicate with those who have died. Men in government and business appeal to astrologers and spiritists for guidance in making important decisions. But what power is manipulating the minds of these people? What does the Bible say about them? Only there can we find truthful and reliable answers.

A. ORIGIN OF SATAN'S ARMY

1. What did the dragon's tail draw out of heaven? Revelation 12:3-4

NOTE: The Bible explains its symbols: the dragon represents the devil (Revelation 12:9) and the stars represent angels (Revelation 1:20). Satan drew a large number of angels into his rebellion against God.

2. Who fell from heaven? Isaiah 14:12



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3. How will Satan and his agents appear? 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

B. THE FINAL DECEPTIONS

4. How does the devil react to the shortness of time?
Revelation 12:12; 1 Peter 5:8

NOTE: In the short time remaining to him, Satan is using all his resources to prevent men turning to God. He has had six thousand years to perfect his deceptions. The Bible explains his methods so that we may be prepared to withstand them.

5. How strong will Satan's last-day deceptions be? Matthew 24:24

6. What caution does God give us regarding all spirits? 1 John 4:1

7. How are we to evaluate the spirits? Isaiah 8:19-20; 1 John 4:2-3

NOTE: The Law of God is the only standard by which to test the spirits. Spiritism always leads away from God's Law. If Satan can deceive us into following spiritism, we each become an "enemy of righteousness" and "pervert the right ways of the Lord." Acts 13:9-10

~ NOTES ~

NOTE: The choices we make every moment of every day proclaim our allegiance either to our Father in heaven or to the father of lies.

SUMMARY

Satan was once an angel of light in heaven, but he allowed rebellion to well up in his heart. Through lies about God, and about his own good intentions, he drew many angels into his rebellion. He and his angels work diligently to spread their spirit among men. Satan uses many artful methods to deceive men, some more easily seen than others. The more subtle his deceptions, the more effective he is.

The Word of God reveals Satan's methods and tells us how we may be prepared to withstand his attacks (Ephesians 6:10-18). The Bible offers the beautiful promise that if we are willing, the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth (John 16:13), and that when we know the truth it will set us free (John 8:32). Christ will set us free from the deceptions of the evil one. To recognize and resist his deceptions, we must make the Bible our study and the Holy Spirit our teacher.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

I now purpose not to listen to, visit, or view anything that is representative of Satan's spiritistic deceptions.

Signed: _____

8. Can people who think they are following Jesus be deceived by spirits and miracles? Matthew 7:21-23

NOTE: Not everyone who claims to do great things through God's power is a child of God (Acts 8:9-10). Only those who do God's will shall God acknowledge to be His followers. "Healings" performed by men who do not follow the Lord's commandments are unquestionably the result of Satan's power. The Bible is plain that there is no truth in those who do not follow God's Word and His Law.

9. What was the actual condition of a slave girl who appeared to be helping Paul in his ministry? Acts 16:16-18

NOTE: Satan's agents may seek to gain credence for themselves by praising and endorsing God's work, see Matthew 8:28-34. It is not what men say, but what God says, which we must heed.

10. After rejecting the Lord, whom did King Saul seek out for counsel? 1 Samuel 28:7

NOTE: As we look further in 1 Samuel chapter 28, we see that the witch conducted a séance. Saul expected the spirit of Samuel and accepted what he saw. But the Bible is clear that Samuel was sleeping in the grave, and what Saul saw was created by an evil spirit.

Today there are many forms of spiritism, some not appearing as dangerous as séances. For example, anything that promotes witches, wizards, ghosts, and goblins deals with spiritism. These are often depicted in television and movie comedies, but they are nonetheless dangerous. Halloween, Dungeons and Dragons, Ouija, many forms of music, astrology, tarot cards, palm reading, divining, prayers for the dead, and baptisms for the dead are a few of the many devices of

Satan.

- 11. From what do the Scriptures instruct us to abstain?
1 Thessalonians 5:22**

NOTE: To abstain from the appearance of evil is a vital Christian principle. We might well expand the thought to absent ourselves from every place where evil appears. It will save us from many perils which could be avoided. Any way in which we place ourselves on Satan's ground makes it easier for him to deceive us. Even curiosity must be guarded, for many are trapped through it. We do not need to experience Satan's deceptive evils to know that they separate us from the love and salvation of our Saviour.

C. GOD'S COUNSEL REGARDING SPIRITISM

- 12. To whom will some persons give heed in the last days?
1 Timothy 4:1**

- 13. With whom should we not fellowship? Deuteronomy 18:10-12;
1 Corinthians 10:20**

NOTE: In modern terms, the Gentiles, those who do not follow God's laws, sacrifice to their idols (entertainment, sensuousness, luxury), where the spirit of Satan lurks, We are asked not to have fellowship in these things where devils abound.

- 14. What is the fate of spiritists and those who follow them?
Revelation 21:8; 1 Chronicles 10:13; Exodus 22:18**

D. SATAN'S MORE SUBTLE DECEPTIONS

Satan is the arch deceiver of the universe. He has many methods of control, some of them extremely subtle. He knows that if we recognize that he is behind the deceptions and temptations, and that if we claim the power of God to overcome, he will be helpless to deceive us. The Bible reveals some of his more subtle methods, as well as those that are obvious.

- 15. Who is the father of lies and of those who lie? John 8:44**

- 16. How are the following attributes described?**

(a) Rebellion and stubbornness: 1 Samuel 15:23

(b) Envy and strife: James 3:14-16

- 17. There are ten things mentioned in which only "children of disobedience" participate. What are they? Ephesians 5:1-6**