

Will YOU, as part of the Elect, be deceived at the end? (Matthew 24:24)



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *Jesus warns us that in the very end time, even the very elect come close to being deceived. Who are the elect? It's crucial you are among them. Will you be deceived in the face of very persuasive signs and miracles – and martyrdom if you don't go along? WHY was Eve deceived in Eden, but Adam was not? What lessons can we learn? Also, how steps are being taken to set the stage worldwide for the coming duo of the Beast and False Prophet and what we need to be watching.*

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In his famous Mt Olivet prophecy of Matthew 24, our Master Yeshua the son of God said there's coming a time when many false prophets will be super deceptive. Later, in the Revelation of Jesus Christ, He reveals a final super false prophet, the Great False Prophet as I call him who will eclipse all the others and will be doing unheard of miracles and signs in Jerusalem. But let's start with Matthew 24.

Matthew 24:23-25

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.

24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and **show great signs and wonders to deceive, if POSSIBLE, EVEN the ELECT.**

25 See, I have told you beforehand."

Verse 24 intrigues me. Deceive even the Elect, God's people, if possible?

Welcome everyone to Light on the Rock. I'm Philip Shields, your brother in Christ and host of this free website on God's word. Welcome to our site, where we build on the Rock that is the Messiah and let his word

SHINE out for all to see, all under and to the glory of Father, our Abba – our God Most High.

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So – will it be possible for the Adversary to deceive YOU and me? The coming great false prophets are so convincing especially with their GREAT signs and wonders, that it appears they at least come close to even deceiving God's own Elect!

Who are the "Elect"? It's God's chosen children! Yeshua says it's the Elect who are gathered by the angels to meet him in the clouds at his return.

Matthew 24:31

"And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and **they will gather together His ELECT** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Yeshua implies it will be harder – if not impossible – to deceive the true elect. So you want to be one of the true Elect, for starters. Paul confirms that it is true members of God's church who make up "the Elect". Look what he says to the Colossian brethren in his day, now western Turkey:

Colossians 3:12

*"Therefore, **as the elect of God**, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering..."*

SO if you don't want to be deceived by a very, very deceptive coming of false prophets, you stand your best chance by being one of the true elect. **The Greek for "elect" comes from "eklektos"** – meaning those specially chosen, hand picked by God himself long ago.

So will you be deceived? Can you be?

The FIRST time "Deceived" is used is very instructive

SO often, the first time a word is used in scripture is very significant. Where do we find the word “deceived” used for the first time?

Genesis 3:13

“And the Lord God (YHVH Elohim) said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "**The SERPENT deceived me**, and I ate."

She told the truth. Satan is not mentioned by name anywhere in Genesis. **Satan** is mentioned only **18 times** in the Old Testament, mostly in Job (14x) and Zechariah (3x). The serpent is identified in Revelation 12:9.

He's also called the DRAGON. I warn you people especially in China and Asia – **do NOT get involved with anything to do with dragons** – parades or anything honoring dragons. Do NOT. (You may want to hear my sermons about “demons” – just Search bar for it).

Revelation 12:9 (also Rev 20:2)

“So the great dragon was cast out, that SERPENT of old, called the Devil [slanderer] and Satan [Enemy, Adversary], who deceives the whole WORLD; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

The whole world is deceived by the Deceiver! **Note: Deceived people don't know they are deceived.** *Even you or I: if we are ever deceived, we won't believe we are – unless God opens our eyes to see we've been deceived.* And get this: like it or not, we often deceive ourselves (*James 1:22*)! And many deceivers don't know they are deceivers. Much more in the next sermon.

Any of you playing video or board games with the name “Dragon” in it are really opening a door you do not want to open! DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH GAMES ABOUT DRAGONS. DO NOT. Burn them, throw them away. Harry Potter movies, books and shows – STOP IT!! They're not of GOD!

One big key to avoid being deceived is to KNOW God's word; to know the TRUTH. I'll speak on that later in this sermon.

But here's what's interesting: Eve DID know the truth and STILL was deceived! She told the Serpent almost exactly what God had told Adam (Genesis 2:15-17).

Genesis 3:1a

“Now the Serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which YHVH God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

Satan was cunning. He was subtle and won their confidence first.

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Eve knew the truth – so far. Don't think you will outwit Satan. Eve's **FIRST mistake was conversing with someone questioning God**. Don't get into a conversation with Satan. (Yeshua had to, Matthew 4, to face Satan head to head and conquer him. But we should not get into a discussion with who is questioning God.) So Satan is very, very cunning and smart.

Ezekiel 28:12-15 says he was “***FULL of wisdom and perfect in beauty***; you were in the garden of Eden... You were the anointed cherub who covers...”

Yeshua says (**John 8:44**) Satan is the father of lies and there is no pure truth in him. He's constantly lying. Lying is a big deal. Many let themselves tell “little lies” but they're lies. It shows which father you are following – and it's not God – when we lie. It originates in a relationship with Satan – not with God. Let's continue in Genesis 3.

Again, **Adam** was not deceived (**1 Tim. 2:11-14**). Only Adam had been given God's command about the 2 trees – at least at first (**Gen. 2:15-17**) as Eve hadn't even been created yet (**Gen 2:20-21**). Let's continue in Genesis 3...

Genesis 3:4-6

4 Then the serpent said (LIED) to the woman, "You will not surely die.
5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it *your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*"

It's easier to be deceived if something sounds *appealing* to us. We can end up *deceiving ourselves*, that something is alright, when it's deadly – if we're not on our guard. (More thought-provoking comments in the audio here.)

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. **She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.**”

The apostle John defines the process to sin as “lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life”.

1 John 2:16

“For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Lust of the flesh (“the tree was good for food”) can be lusting for food we should not eat – as Israelites did in the wilderness. **EVE may have been hungry when this happened.** Satan may have been eating of the fruit and showing it to be “harmless”, as he wasn’t dying. That’s speculation that makes sense to me. Somehow Eve saw that the fruit was good for food. How could she know it was good for food unless someone (the serpent) was eating of it?

Satan used this food tactic also on Jesus (Yeshua) after he had been fasting 40 days -- plus casting doubt: “IF you be the SON of God, turn this stone into bread” (**Matthew 4:1-4**). He left out the word “Beloved” as in “Beloved son” of God (**Matthew 3:17**), **which Yeshua heard at his baptism.**

Lust of the flesh can also often refer to the kind of sex you should not have outside of marriage, like anyone lusting after a woman – or man; wealth for wealth’s sake; alcohol abuse and drug addiction. So people are often lured away by sex, fine dining, booze, drugs, more sex.

Lust of the EYES -- coveting; wanting something forbidden or something we can’t afford or that belongs to someone else. Achan after the battle of Jericho saw expensive clothing, gold, silver – and his lust of the eyes (Coveting) caused his and his family’s death. Be very careful about coveting.

Pride of Life – the forbidden fruit became desired to make one wise. Eve wanted that power of being able to decide good and evil for herself, something God kept to himself for now. She was proud and wanted to be “somebody”. So much of our human weakness is rooted in wanting to look good to others by the car we drive, the shoes we wear, the expensive home we live in, the job title we have, how many people we are “over”, and so on.

So what happened here? She knew the truth but didn’t STAY with the truth. Keep that in mind as we see how she became deceived.

Satan made Eve believe in this instance it was safe to go against God's word.

KEY: It's alarming how quickly so many Americans especially – who have so many liberties – were willing to give up their freedom of assembly and the free exercise of our religion and our freedom of speech in the past year.

To me the elites are setting the stage for the end time deceivers to have a foundation to work from. Emergency executive orders were passed that took control from the populace – to the executive elites. And too many Americans were OK with that. The stage is being set: millions complying to new edicts.

First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or **prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech**, or of the press, or the **right of the people peaceably to assemble**, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

We were told we were in an emergency situation – so governors and the president were issuing executive orders closing down whole states and that we could not assemble for church even though Casinos and marijuana stores and liquor sellers could remain open!

Eve knew better but was deceived into believing in this case she could eat of the forbidden fruit. *And Adam, though not deceived, went along to get along instead of standing up for truth*, ordering the serpent out, and pulling his wife out of harm's way. By contrast, our Beloved – Yeshua – stands up for us as our advocate and fights for us.

Genesis 3:7-8

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

It seems God may have had a daily walk with them in the cool evening breezes. Is it possible they were shining brightly prior to sin, as Moses was, when he was in the very presence of God (**Exodus 34:29-35**)? Is it possible that when they sinned, they lost that brilliance and for the first time could see each other's body clearly? Just speculation but why didn't know they were naked before? It's also possible Satan polluted their minds on this.

8 And they heard the sound of YHVH God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden”.

So even though EVE knew the truth, she still got deceived because she didn't obey the truth (James 1:22). Have you thought of that before? Adam however was not deceived.

1 Timothy 2:11-14

“Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

So Adam was not deceived, but did nothing to stop it, and that made his sin even greater – for he saw what was happening but didn't react to what he knew. So he is considered the first human sinner (Romans 5:12) because he sinned intentionally. Eve was deceived. Next time I'll show more about sins of intention and sins of ignorance. God views them differently.

Will WE be deceived by the end-time super False Prophet proclaiming himself to be God? Satan himself will give him special miracles that cannot be explained away by technology. SO persuasive, he will be, that the world will adore him. We must not ever be among those adoring the anti-Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

“Now, brethren, **concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 Let no one deceive you by ANY means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away [apostasy] comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called “God” or that is worshiped, **so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

9 **The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous DECEPTION among those who perish, BECAUSE they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

11 And for this reason GOD will send them strong delusion, ***that they should believe the lie***, 12 that they all may be condemned who **did not believe the truth** but *had pleasure in unrighteousness.*”

SO WHAT did we just read?

- SATAN will empower this lawless one, this anti-Christ-- with powerful lying wonders which DECEIVE the majority (v. 10)
- For now there is still someone restraining him from showing himself, but when that restraint is removed – boom! – He’ll be there!
- A big, big key to falling into deception **is stated in v 10** – people are deceived *because* they *didn't receive the love of the TRUTH*, which could have saved them from deception. Loving the truth will require time and study and a desire to really know and understand truth!

Let’s read another passage about his powers to convince the whole world to believe him and to do everything he says – or else! Turn to Revelation 13.

But first: the world’s kingdoms are depicted and called “beasts” in the Bible. You'll see this in Daniel 7 for example – world-ruling empires described as powerful beasts – like **a lion with wings**; a bear with 3 ribs in its mouth; a leopard with 4 heads and 4 wings – and then a ferocious 4th beast.

It’s all in Daniel 7 – *and there’s a horn that comes up and makes war with the saints for 3-1/2 years (time, times and half a time) until God saves the saints and gives them rulership.*

But everything I read tells **me the time just before Christ returns will be super tough against God's children** – *and God will allow it.* It also appears that some of God's children will be given protection and safety – a hiding place – in GOD. I love the psalms and hymns -- "You are my Hiding Place" (**Psalm 32:7; 119:114**).

But many, many of God's children will have to face a most terrible time. *In those painful and scary circumstances, allowing oneself to be deceived can become attractive! And those of us called upon to be martyrs: so be it! What an honor that would be to die for the One who was willing to die for you and me.*

Revelation 13

"Then I stood on the sand of the **sea**. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. **2** Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.

The Dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. **3** And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

4 So they worshiped the **DRAGON (Satan)** who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for **forty-two months**.

6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

7 **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.** And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

8 **ALL who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear. 10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

14 And he DECEIVES those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and **cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be KILLED**.

16 He causes ALL, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for **it is the number of a man: His number is 666.**"

Are we beginning to see how VITAL it is that we learn not to be deceived? But if we don't go along with this Beast system, we will most likely be killed.

WHY I DECIDED TO GIVE THIS SERMON NOW

3 major events affecting God's children have happened recently that inspired me to give this topic at this time.

- 1. How quickly and suddenly world events were changed by a virus – and can change again.** Note the word "SUDDENLY". In

Yeshua's words about days of Lot and Noah – his emphasis was how suddenly the end came for those people. Luke 17:26-30.

The Covid19 pandemic suddenly collapsed entire economies and killed millions. Prior to that – 2017-2019, the US economy was booming. Unemployment and inflation were way down. We were energy independent. Our *military* was rebuilt. Peace was coming to the Middle East with Abraham Accords. NATO was paying their bills. China was quiet. NO new wars were started.

Then—boom! Everything changed and the whole world shut down, businesses were closed, schools, weddings, funerals etc were all shut down and new rules were forced upon everyone. We need to learn from that and realize we may not have time to build a deep relationship with God right at the very end time – if everything suddenly shuts down again.

2. How quickly and easily many countrymen were deceived into surrendering their constitutional rights – right here in America at least. VERY quickly.

How SUDDENLY we were convinced to quit assembling for church services – as, after all, we have to obey the authorities, right?

But when Peter and the apostles were told to quit preaching in Christ's name, and were being rounded up and cast into prison when believers did meet – what did Peter say? Did he say, "I get it. That's the law now? So we have to submit to authority and obey the law... so I guess we'll cancel plans to preach Christ and assemble."

NO. You and I are going to be faced with the same predicament in the coming years. Will we continue to preach truth openly – or be too afraid to? Here's what happened.

Acts 5:17-21

"Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, 18 and **laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison.**

19 But **at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors** and brought them out, and said, 20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

21 And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

Acts 5:22-33

22 But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported, 23 saying, "Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside!"

24 Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. 25 So one came and told them, saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"

26 Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the **high priest asked them,**

28 saying, "Did we not strictly COMMAND you not to teach in this name?" And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Jump to v 40...

40 And they (the Council) agreed with him (Gamaliel), and when they had **called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus and** let them go.

41 *So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.*

42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they DID NOT CEASE teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ."

- 3. Then THIS – this was the last straw: How many believers were deceived – to some degree at least (some way more than others) – about what would happen to the newly elected President Biden in January 2021 - or some said January -to – March 2021.**

Many of us watched and read the theories and “prophecies” being put out there – but too many put their trust, utter belief and confidence in those theories. Many were 100% sure they would all come to pass.

PRIOR to the election, MANY ministers claimed to have had dreams and visions from God. They said God told them Trump would be re-elected. Many, too many, conservatives were deceived by that. I heard the host of the show “It’s Supernatural” – Sid Roth -- had many of these on his show and there were many others. *And many of us bought in to some degree or another.*

TOO many of God’s children spent precious hours watching, hoping and believing these prophecies – that did not come true and were not from God! But too many believers were deceived into believing them anyway.

Their prophecies did NOT come to pass because the true God had NOT spoken to them. They were all false prophets, but many in the church bought in to their visions and dreams. TOO many of you still put a lot of hope in a Trump comeback. He MAY or may not come back – but our hope must NEVER be in any man, but in GOD and HIS will.

Ezekiel 13:1-3

And the word of YHVH came to me, saying, 2 "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, 'Hear the word of the Lord!'"

3 Thus says the Lord God: "Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!"

Going forward – as children of the living God –let’s SPEND our time in God’s WORD – NOT on these theories and false prophecies.

SO many conservatives believed there would be a true insurrection that would topple what many believed was a wrongly elected presidency. The military was supposed to get involved and on and on. The things being said

on internet were beyond wild. And too many kept up with the daily reporting of what would happen next.... and believed it.

It was so convincing, wasn't it? But they were deceived and deceiving others – and any of us believers who believed any of that were also being deceived. Can we/you admit that? Can we learn from that deceived experience?

It made me realize we are NOT as strong spiritually as we might have hoped. *We were more gullible than we like to admit. Too many believers were deceived. And it should be a clarion call, a wakeup call to us all!*

IT'S A LESSON. *If we don't learn from this, too many of us will be deceived by the Beast and False Prophet who will rise up.*

Make no mistake: SATAN – the ENEMY – is setting up the foundation to be able to legally go after believers in Jesus Christ who obey God's word. The Bible will become a "hate book". After all it says God's chosen people are a holy people, called to be children of God.

Any of us who believe in Biblical teachings – like the nuclear family headed by a father and mother who have children, in traditional marriage, or that God made mankind male and female, or that God's Word – the Bible – is what we want to live by—WILL become targets of persecution.

They are trying to entice us first – like EVE – even though you know the truth – they entice us to go along, to get along. "Don't make a big deal about things you can't change", they'll tell you. "Go along with the vast majority who see this new way", they'll say. You know what I mean. You see what they're teaching in our schools, universities, even our military now, as you're urged to be "woke".

Yes, let's wake up! Let's be "woke" that way – awakened to what God says and reject the siren calls and lures of Satan the deceiver. The squeeze has started. You can't even go to any university now without a Covid Vaccine Passport – even if you've already had the virus and have the antibodies! Those not going along fully are being called bad names and ostracized.

And – like Eve – could we then be talked into joining the Beast and False Prophet system – and imperil our eternity?

GOD IS CLEAR: if we become a part of that system, we will suffer in end-time Babylon's plagues (Rev 18:4).

Covid19 Passports may make it nearly impossible to travel without showing your vaccination – even though none of them are 100% effective and there have been many thousands who have had serious adverse events and side effects including many thousands who have died from the shot – and that's from the CDC.gov site itself. Check the VAERS site inside the CDC. You're not going to hear this on the news media but it's all government statistics on CDC.

I don't believe Covid19 Passports" is the "Mark of the Beast" – but is SETTING the worldwide stage as a trial run for having worldwide rules!

So, sometime before Christ returns, we'll be faced with the duo of everything we're told in 2 Thessalonians 2, Matthew 24 and Revelation 13 – which we read today:

- The lure of wonderful and powerful miracles that look like only God could be empowering them and the urging to be a part of this amazing new government/religion duo.
- The persecution, pain and death if you don't go along.

Who will you obey? Who will you follow? God – or Satan? Truth – or deception? Or will you choose to go along and cower to the coming great False Prophet and Beast (military/economic government empire) power?

So remember that Satan has deceived the whole world. You don't know if you're deceived or not unless God opens your mind to see it.

SO, as part of the elect can you be deceived?

If you're a dedicated part of the Elect who is actively seeking God and his word and obeying him and you KNOW Him – our Father will protect us from being deceived by the False Prophet at the end. If you're not part of the elect, and walk away from God's direction and his word for you -- yes, you likely will be deceived.

Frankly, I just want to get it all over with and have Christ ruling over the earth as soon as possible. "Thy kingdom come, Lord". I don't want to see any prolonging of ANY of Satan's governments. All the world's systems, the cosmos, is his. He's the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). I want him kicked out and replaced as soon as God wills it – and I hope it's sooner than later. Let's get it over with!

In my next sermon I will cover “HOW to avoid being deceived” – both in the natural world with gimmicks and lies to take your money –but more importantly in the spiritual world and the coming end-time world powers and the coming great false religious leader. I’ll have 5 points to keep from being deceived.

Please tell others about us and our website. It could save their lives someday. Closing prayer.