

The Power and Danger of Deception

by Eli Brayley

Eli Brayley's sermon emphasizes the critical need for discernment in a world filled with deception, urging believers to adhere closely to the truth of Scripture and the true Gospel.

Duration: 1:02:28

Scripture: 1 Kings 22:13

Topics: "Deception"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of holding on to the truth and not being deceived in the last days. He references the scripture that says as in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the Son of Man, indicating that the Lord will appear in great darkness when the devil has control. The parable of the virgins is used to illustrate the importance of being prepared and having faith. The preacher urges listeners to test everything, hold on to what is good, and not reject truth for lies.

Transcript

Thank you, Lord. It's really wonderful to be here. I was baptized in this church.

That's what I was baptized when I was 7 years old. I don't know if anyone was there. Was anybody there? Okay.

It's good to see the young people here too. I'm 20 years old. My name's Eli Braley.

My name's spelled wrong in the bulletin. I absolutely love the world. And I love the church.

I love God's people, and I love you. It's an honor to be here. Thank you, Ken and Bonnie.

And I just want to say something before I begin to the young people. The Bible says in Timothy, and that's the book I just loved, the Bible says in Timothy that you've known the Scripture since you were a child. That's what Paul said.

He says, that from a child, thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through your faith which is in Christ Jesus. And there's nothing more important for the young people to build your life upon the Word of God and start as a young person to building your life on the Word of God which is able to make you wise unto salvation. As a little tree, and it has a rod, and as the rod is crooked, the tree will grow crooked.

But as the rod is straight, the tree will grow straight. And the problem with our world is that we're living in a world of just degeneracy, utter lawlessness. And the danger is for us as young people, old people, middle-aged people, whatever, is to succumb to the world.

And in succumbing to the world, we stray from the Bible and we're going to grow crooked. We're going to grow crooked. And the thing is, the world will say it's just culture.

I'm just doing what the culture says, but at some point you have to draw a line between culture and the Word of God because culture is all part of the world system as well. There's good culture, there's bad culture, but as the world goes on and on, culture gets infected and our culture is now infected. And we have to be careful that we're not doing, like the Bible says, anyone who's a friend of the world is an enemy with God.

And we need to be careful that we're not enemies with God because we're just following the culture, just flowing with the stream. Amen? The Lord, at 18 years old, I didn't know what I wanted to do at all. I had no idea.

What do you want to do with your life, Eli? I don't know. But at 18, what happened was, I went to a service and there was a preacher and he was terrible. And I remember after that service, I said, I want to be a preacher.

It was amazing. One day I didn't know what I wanted to do, and the next day I was certain. I want to preach the Word of God.

And that's been the most weighty thing on my shoulders ever since. The Word of God is so serious. And I take this whole thing very seriously and I hope you do too.

This isn't a game. Christianity is not a game. Christianity is not just a club and a hobby and a thing you do on Sundays.

Christianity is the most serious thing in the entire universe. There's nothing more important. If we stray in one little thing and our tree goes crooked, there's severe consequences.

So I've come this morning to preach from God's Word, to preach what God's told me to preach and not to please man, but to please God. Because it's Him who we're supposed to please and not man. It's His Word, not ours.

Amen. Maybe I will put this on here. How many people have their Bibles here? Okay.

Praise God. Turn please to 1 Kings chapter 22. 1 Kings chapter 22.

And I'll just open in a word of prayer. Heavenly Father, we just are mindful that You are God. We're just still and knowing that You are God.

Lord, I pray Your blessing on the Word with Your Spirit in life. I thank You, Father, that Your Word has stood the test of time against every attack against it, Lord. We take captive every thought that exalts itself above the knowledge of God.

Lord, I praise You this morning because of Your steadfast faithfulness toward us and Your steadfast love, which endures forever. Thank You, Lord. O God, send Your Holy Spirit to us this morning.

Unless Your presence goes with us, Lord, it's just in vain. O Lord, let us not do a thing without Your Holy Spirit within us. O Lord, help me to speak this morning.

I yearn weakness this morning, Lord. Help me, Lord, to preach Your Word. Lord, I feel so burdened, Lord, because this world is turning away from You.

O Lord, help us to come back to You. Deliver us from evil. Deliver us from evil.

Lead us in the way everlasting. Thank You, Lord. Praise You, God.

Hallelujah. We pray this in Jesus' name. Just bless the service now, Lord, in Jesus' name.

Amen. Missionary Sunday. Spreading the gospel.

The importance of the gospel in a world that's totally forsaken the gospel. The world that's totally, the fullest in its heart, there is no God. Spreading the gospel.

This is what's on my heart. As we've heard already, I don't want to talk a lot about myself, but I do preach on the streets. The Lord's asked me to do that.

And this fall, I'll be having the opportunity to be speaking in the United States, September to Christmas, or maybe even after Christmas, Lord willing, and traveling from university to university to university, preaching the gospel of salvation of Christ with a couple other preachers. And we'll be staying about three days in each one, as the Lord permits. If the Spirit of God is moving, we'll stay longer.

And it's such an important place, a university. It's young minds. And the young people I've noticed today, right now, 21st century young people are very different than 20th century young people.

They don't have a standard. They don't have a standard of godliness. They don't have the word of God.

And their idols and their standard and the people they look up to are the people we see on TV, in music, and in the movies. And we know that that is very corrupt and very ungodly. And that's their standard.

That's who they dress like. That's who they talk like. That's who they think about.

They want to be more like that. And so it's very exciting and very sobering to be going on this trip. The Lord, the way it worked out when I was 19, turning 20, I sought the Lord that night and He said, this 20th year of yours is going to be completely different for you.

And He didn't tell me what that was. And I said, by faith, I said, Okay, Lord, I'm expecting my 20th year to be different than I've ever had it. And then I was in school at that time, in university, at UMB, and about halfway through school, the Lord again came to me very clearly and said, You're to drop school now.

I have something else for you to do. But He didn't tell me what that was. And to drop out of school, it looked bizarre to everybody.

Why is he dropping out of school? You should get an education. That's what's important. But I said, The Lord has told me to go.

I don't know why. I'm just going out. What are you going into? I don't know.

I'm just leaving school. And so I left school and got a couple funny looks. A couple months after that, then the Lord, I'm telling you, I don't say that lightly when He speaks to me.

I don't like to say, I heard the Lord here and I heard the Lord there, unless I really know it was Him. Because there's a lot of that going on and it's hard to distinguish the truth from the false sometimes. But I really did hear from the Lord and He said, You're leaving home after the summer.

You're to pack your bags and go. And He didn't tell me where again. So by faith I went to my parents.

I said, Mom and Dad, after the summer I'm leaving. They said, Where? I said, I don't know. And I had made up my mind by faith and the Lord knew it because I speak before Him.

I made up my mind by faith that when the summer was over, regardless if I had anything, regardless if there was nothing I could have gone to, I was going to leave. Regardless if I had nowhere else to go, I said, the Lord told me to leave and I'm leaving. Just like He told Abraham to leave.

Just in that same way. And I said, I'm leaving. And it was a couple weeks after I made up my mind that the opportunity came for me to go.

And so the way the Lord has just orchestrated that is fantastic. And I bless Him. And I want to be faithful to Him in preaching His Word.

Because He's brought me this far. Okay, 1 Kings 22 In preaching the Word, in preaching the Word of God, in spreading the Gospel, in spreading the Gospel to the lost world the first thing we need to know is what is the Gospel? Because there's so many false Gospels out there. You could go be an evangelist and spread around a false Gospel.

And that's the danger that we're living in today. A lot of people want to serve the Lord. There's no shortage.

I remember when I was growing up, most people, when you say what do you want to do, they would pick a job. But now, when I ask most young Christians you say, what do you want to do? They say, I want to minister. I want to be in this ministry, youth ministry, worship ministry, pastor, I want to be a missionary.

I find that all over. Most young people say, I want to serve the Lord now. That's wonderful.

There's a danger to that though. Because if the Lord has not called somebody into the ministry and I mean the ministry specifically, the ministry as we know it there's a danger in that if it's just them wanting to go on their own. The danger I find is because we're living in a world and the church has been corrupted by the world.

I'm convinced of it. I'm absolutely convinced and nobody can change my mind. The Lord has shown me and told me and it's so clear in His Word that what we hear Sunday after Sunday after Sunday all over the world, all over the North America and the West and Britain.

It's degenerate. It's close to the gospel but it's not exactly and so we got all this wave of people wanting to preach the gospel. I'm scared because you got so many people wanting to preach the gospel and I don't even know if they know the gospel.

This is the serious situation that we're living in today. It's not like it was way back when. We're living in a terrible time when the number one thing that's happened is we strayed from the Word.

We strayed from the Word and Paul continually warned the church, continually, continually warned the church that when I leave, when I leave, many false prophets will come in. Many wolves will come in. Actually Jesus said I'm sending you as sheep among wolves and the wolves, I don't know, do we underestimate that? Do we underestimate what Jesus said? Many wolves and they want to lead the flock away from the truth.

It's just the devil. God's, the gospel of Christ will stand the test of time, don't get me wrong. It will not be defeated but it is under incredible attack right now.

And what I want to speak on this morning and I'm speaking from what the Lord, I felt, has told me, I know He's told me. I don't say that lightly. The power and the danger of deception.

And deception comes to all of us, not just to unbelievers but to believers as well. The deception to unbelievers today is quite obvious. Evolution, Da Vinci Code, all that garbage.

That's not what concerns me though. I'm not so concerned about that. The unbelievers need to hear the gospel of Christ.

What concerns me is the deception of the church. The deception of the believers. That's the scary thing because if the unbelievers are deceived, they're already not saved.

If the believers are deceived, what do we have to offer them? What do we have to offer them, honestly? These are important things for us to consider today and not just overlook it. These are so important. So, let's read.

And the Lord has promised this blessing. Okay. Starting in verse 1. And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel.

And it came to pass in the third year that Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, came down to the king of Israel. And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth and Gilead is ours, and we bestill and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria. And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramoth and Gilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.

And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Inquire, I pray thee, at the word of the Lord today. Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramoth and Gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up, go up, for the Lord shall deliver him to the hand of the king. And Jehoshaphat said, See Jehoshaphat, he was catching on to something here.

He had a discernment. There was something funny about all this. Four hundred prophets, go up, go up.

Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, that we might inquire of him? So he saw these people as phonies. Is there not a prophet of the Lord that we can inquire of? And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I love this, There is yet one man, Micaiah, the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord, but I hate him, for he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

Then the king of Israel called an officer and said, Hasten hither, Micaiah, the son of Imlah. And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, sat on the throne, having put on their robes in the void placed in the entrance of the gate of Samaria, and all the prophets prophesied before them. And Zedekiah, the son of Sheenah, made him horns of iron and said, Thus saith the Lord, With these shalt thou push the Syrians until thou hast consumed them.

And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up, go up to Ramoth Gilead and prosper, for the Lord shall deliver it into the king's hands. It's fascinating. And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declared good unto the king with one mouth.

Let thy word, I pray thee, be like the words of one of them, and speak that which is good. And Micaiah said, As the Lord liveth what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak. And so he came to the king, and the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramoth Gilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go and prosper, for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

But the king knew Micaiah better than that. And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing that which is true in the name of the Lord? He's kind of saying, How many times have I told you to just tell me what you heard from the Lord? And then Micaiah pulls it out. And he said, I saw Israel scattered upon the hills as a sheep that have not a shepherd.

And the Lord said, These have no master. Let them return every man to his house in peace. And the king of Beth Israel said unto Hosabab, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord.

That's Micaiah speaking. I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the hosts of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on left. And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab that he may go up and fall at Ramoth Gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

And there came forth a spirit and stood before the Lord and said, I will persuade him. And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also.

Go forth and do so. Now therefore behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning me. But Zedekiah the son of Shinnah went near and smote Micaiah on the cheek and said, Which way went the spirit of the Lord for me to speak unto thee? He's mocking him there.

And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day when thou shalt go into thy inner chamber and hide thyself. And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah and carry him back into Ammon, the governor of the city, and to Jerash the king's son and say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in prison and feed him with bread of affliction, with the water of affliction, until I come in peace. And Micaiah said, If thou return all in peace, the Lord hath not spoken by me.

And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you. I think the NIV says, Mark my words. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead, and the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself and enter into battle, but put thou on thy robes.

And the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle. So he's thinking he's going to get away with this here. But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had ruled over his chariots,

saying, Fight neither with small nor great, only with the king of Israel.

And it came to pass when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat that they said, Surely he is the king of Israel. And they turned aside to fight against him, and Jehoshaphat cried out. And it came to pass when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

And a certain man drew a bow at a venture at random, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of his harness. Wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand and carry me out of the host, for I am wounded. And the battle increased that day, and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even or at noon, and the blood or at evening, and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot, and there went a proclamation to the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country.

So the king died and was brought to Samaria, and they buried the king in Samaria, and one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood, and they washed his armor according unto the word of the Lord which he spake. You see, a lying spirit is actually a judgment against our judgment from God. When we think of judgment, sometimes all we think about is natural disasters, well, in our case it would be supernatural disasters that the Lord sends, or some supernatural or extreme judgment by the Lord.

But you know, the passage in Scripture here, it just shows that a judgment from God is actually a lying spirit with the intent to make the people fall. Did you get that? It's a lying spirit that the Lord sends with the intent to make the people fall, or in this case Ahab. When I'm out preaching on the streets, I come across unbelievers, and they fall into this condition.

Almost everyone without exception. Romans chapter 1. Let's look at that. This will make a lot more sense in just a moment.

Romans chapter 1. Verse 28. And even as they did not like to retain knowledge of God, the knowledge of God, God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not convenient. When I read that, that really shook me up.

God gave them over to a reprobate mind. Reprobate mind basically means a mind that doesn't function right. A mind that doesn't function right.

A mind that's under the influence of deception. A mind that is under the influence of a lie. To believe a lie, as it says earlier in the chapter, it says they seeing as they didn't want to hold on to the truth of God, God gave them over to believe a lie.

And so I come across unbelievers on the street, and we'll talk about things, and I can give them a convincing argument for the Lord. You know, you can argue till you're blue in the face with an unbeliever, and you can be right, and he can have nothing to say, and yet he's got some blinders over his eyes, and he just doesn't see the truth. He can't grab the truth.

There's something blocking, there's something in his mind that, when he looks at light, he sees darkness, and when he looks at darkness, he sees light. He sees evil, and he says, it's nothing, you know. But when he sees good, he says, that's nothing either.

He's reprobate. God gives them over to a reprobate mind. To think that which is not convenient, or to think that which is not so.

Just like Ahab. He wanted Ahab to not see that he would lose, because of all the prophets saying, you're gonna win, you're gonna do it, you're gonna take over. And he was, it was his downfall.

Now Jesus talked about this. Does anyone remember where Jesus talked about this? About the Pharisees? He said, God has blinded their eyes, lest they see, turn, and be healed. That is John 12, 40.

He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart, that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. God actually does this. We don't think about this.

God actually blinds them. Now, why? There's a reason for that. God doesn't just do that to anybody.

Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge. That's where it is. They don't want God.

So God says, you don't want me? Then you'll believe a lie, lest you turn and be healed. And that's what happened with Ahab. You can see from his character.

You can see from the rest of the story. Ahab didn't want the knowledge of God. Ahab wanted to hear what the prophet said.

He said, oh, there's only one, but I hate him. I don't like what he has to say. It doesn't have to do with me.

It doesn't have to say good things about me. And often times, the problem is us, or as non-believers, or as us as people, believers or unbelievers, we don't like to hear the negative. And so we actually turn our, we don't like that.

We say, I hate that. He only says negative things, and I don't like that negative word. I only like the parts of the Bible that are nice.

I only like the parts of the Bible that are good. The promises that are nice. The ones that make me feel good.

That doesn't tell me to repent. That doesn't tell me to change my life. But the ones that tell me that I'm going to go to heaven.

The ones that tell me that I'm going to get blessed. Whatever blessing. I like those promises, but I don't like the other ones.

And when we get into a mindset like that, watch out because you're on your way to a reprobate mind. If you say, see the Bible says, preach the whole counsel of God. But when we start taking just bits and pieces of it, then God's going to say, you don't think it well to retain the knowledge of God? You just want to hear what your itching ears want to say? It sounds familiar, doesn't it? What Paul was saying, in the end times, people will want to hear only what their itching ears want to say.

And God will give them over to a reprobate mind. It's very sobering. I'm sorry for bringing a message like this.

I don't want to. This is not the message I want to speak this morning. I don't want to speak this.

Honestly, my dad knows I don't. But this is what the Lord has put on my heart, so I have to speak it. If I don't, I'll feel guilty after.

Because I'll go home and say, I didn't do what the Lord wanted me to say. This isn't the popular way to preach, by no means. I'm actually just talking to unbelievers here, how they don't want to retain God's knowledge, so God actually holds them back from coming to the truth, as Jesus said.

But what about believers? The book of Hosea 4, 6, My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. We usually hear that, yeah, my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. That means that because we don't know, we fall into trouble.

But that's not what the whole Scripture says. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge because thou hast rejected knowledge. There's a little bit of a twist on that now.

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 that thou hast forgotten the law of thy God. I will also forget thy children.

And this is what's burdening me, is in our day today, are we forgetting the law of God? Not the law in terms of the old law, but the things that have been passed down to us by the apostles of God, the standard of the Word of God, the sure foundation of God's Word, as Jude wrote, once for all delivered unto the saints. This is serious stuff. Once for all delivered unto the saints.

I was thinking about that word, ignorance, and I was thinking about it, and the Lord really put a little thought in my heart. It was split up. Ignore.

Ignorance comes from the word ignore. It's ignore, ants. Some people say ignorance is just you don't know.

For say, somebody in Medoc might not know that we're having a church service. That's not ignorance. But ignorance would be if someone knew we were having a church service and chose to ignore it.

Then God would say, you're ignorant. You've rejected knowledge. And I have to say that ignorance is plugging the church today.

There's things in scripture we just ignore. Simple. I can't say any more simple than that.

We just ignore. It's scary. Help me.

Oh, Heavenly Father, help me right now in Jesus' name. Help me, Lord, in Jesus' name. I need your help more than anything right now, Lord.

Please be with me, Church of Medocicare. Help me, Lord. Help me, Lord Jesus.

Help me. In our text again, in chapter 22 in Kings, it says in verse 13 and 14. And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah, spake unto him, saying, Behold now the words of the prophet declare good things unto the king with one mouth.

Let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good. And I tell you, that is the flesh and the devil and the world speaking right now right there. Pastor, Pastor Ken, Pastor

whoever, in Fredericton, in New Brunswick, in British Columbia, in Quebec, speak that which is good.

I feel like this today, okay. Micaiah said unto the Lord, As the Lord liveth what the Lord saith unto me, I will speak. Let's turn to 2 Thessalonians, please.

Bless the Lord. 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, starting at verse 1. By the way, test everything that I say. Test everything that I say from the word of God.

Be a Berean. Test what I say. If anything doesn't line up with the word, know it.

That's the problem with people today in the churches. We don't test things anymore. The Bible says test the spirits to see whether they be from God.

Test me. Test my character. My father's right there.

Go talk to him after the service and ask him what I'm like at home. Test everything about me. Test my words.

Test my conduct. Test my lifestyle. And see that I be a man of God come to speak the word of the Lord to you.

Don't just take my word for it. Stop taking people's word for it. And start taking God's word for what it is.

Okay. 2 Thessalonians. Now, verse 1. We beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and by our gathering together unto Him that ye be not seen shaken in mind or be troubled neither by spirit nor by word nor by letter, by spirit nor by word nor by letter, as if from us as at the day of Christ is at hand.

Let no man deceive you by any means for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not that when I was yet with you I told you these things and now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work, only he who now letteth will let until he be taken out of the way and then shall that wicked be revealed whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming, even him whose coming is after the working of Satan's all power and signs and lying wonders.

And with all deceivableness here we go, all deceivableness of unrighteousness in men that perish because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved for this cause God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie. When we preach the gospel we need to preach the right gospel. When we spread the gospel we need to preach the right gospel.

We need to watch out for walls. We need to watch out for deception. We need to hold on to the truth that has been passed down.

This is the most important thing today. There's nothing more important than this at this very moment. The Lord God is saying to his people hold on, hold on to the truth.

Love the truth. Hold on to the truth. Don't reject knowledge.

Don't be ignorant. Study your Bibles. Know your words.

Saturate your minds. Stand on guard. Watch out for false prophets.

Watch out for lying spirits. This is what the Lord is saying. If you are hearing something different I would suggest that you are not hearing from the Lord.

This is what the Lord is saying. We are living in the last days when many will fall away. Many will turn away.

Hold on to what is true. Not following after cunning fables. Believe not every spirit.

Test the spirit. Okay. Now the Lord needs to give me much grace here.

I'm here today to speak and warn against ignorance and deception. I'm here to earnestly contend for the faith that has once been passed down for all the saints. I believe that today in our day there is a false teaching going around and this false teaching is saying that the church will literally take over the world and set up the kingdom of God in all nations denying the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh and saying that he is returning in you and I and not in the clouds of heaven.

And this false teaching says that we have already entered the thousand year millennium of Christ prophesied of in Revelations 20 and the church has now only to rise up, bind Satan, conquer death, rule and reign as God for a thousand years. As God is in quotes there. It's not really what they mean.

All of this of course is under the scripture Christ in us the hope of glory. We are the body of Christ and all the promises that have to do with Jesus' return have been put on to us. Put on to his church.

And I submit, I submit church that this is false. This is not what scripture says. I want to talk just very briefly and I'm not going to go in depth of the origins of this false teaching.

Why it is false and where this false teaching will lead us. First of all, this teaching, does everyone understand what I just said? What that teaching is? Does everyone understand what that is saying? Does anyone not understand? Okay. This is brand new.

This is not an old doctrine. This wasn't passed down by the apostles. This wasn't found in Christianity in the 1500s, in the 1600s, in the 3rd century, the early church fathers did not write about this.

It's only come up in the latter part of the 20th century. Okay, this is very recent. 1900s.

And it goes under such names as Kingdom Now, Postmillennialism, Third Day, or whatever else they want to call it. This is no different than the Jehovah Witnesses. The Jehovah Witnesses have the exact same doctrine.

They believe that they, the Church of God, are going to take over the world. This is no different than Islam or Roman Catholicism. Okay? This is no different than what we just read in our text.

Let's go up and take Grand Mother Gilead. Let's go up and take it. It's ours for the taking.

And John Wesley said, and I love this quote, Whatever doctrine is new must be wrong, for the old religion is the only true religion and no doctrine can be right unless it is the same which was from the beginning. What was passed down from the beginning. Anything that's new, brothers and sisters, I love you, anything that's new, that is strange, serious, this is not, this is new.

What is this funny teaching? Anything that's new cannot be true. If Paul did not talk about it, it is not true. Once for all delivered unto the saints.

Galatians 1.6-9 says, I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another, but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ, but there we, listen to this, listen very carefully, but there we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you than that which we have preached unto you that which Paul has preached unto you, that which James has preached unto you, that which Jesus has handed. Let him be accursed whoever does that, whoever preaches contrary. As we said before, so I say now again, if any man preach another gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

God is not teaching anything new. He's already done something new. He said, I was going to do a new thing.

He did it on the cross. The new covenant, the new testament, and now what we have to do is hold fast to that against the world who is rising up. We haven't even grasped the old truth yet.

Repent. Be filled with the spirit. We need these things.

I need to find people who are like that. Very few. These are the things we have to hold on to, not move past those.

We haven't even got them yet. Okay, that's the origins. It's brand new.

Now, the scripture that they take and remember the bible says that false prophets are deceived and deceiving. They're not, it's not always that they themselves are deceived too. It's not that they themselves like, what I'm trying to say is they are victims as well of deception too.

Not always that they're the cause of it, but they're also just the victim of the deception as well. And the scripture that is used is, a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day. Taken from 2 Peter 3.8. And so basically what it is, is they believe that the third millennium from Christ's resurrection, the third millennium from Christ's resurrection is the thousand year reign of Christ.

The third millennium, that would be right now. That means right now is the thousand year reign of Christ. And they call it the day of the Lord.

And what they do is they say a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day. And really, that is the scripture that they're basing this on. There's a couple other, but this is like one of the main ones.

And this scripture is talking about God's patience. It's talking about God being patient with us. It's an expression.

It's saying God is patient not to destroy us because he longs for us to perish. If you read a couple verses down, it says the heavens will melt away when he comes. And he will come back with the world that was then will be overflowed with water, perish the heavens and the earth which are now by the same way are kept in store, reserved in the fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

And then he says the day of one day is like a thousand years. And it's talking about God's patience as an expression. It's not talking about a literal thousand years that in three millenniums now we're in the

millennium of Christ.

I'm going to go into this a little bit more. In 1st Thessalonians 4 the first thing that's wrong with this in 1st Thessalonians 4 or sorry 5 it says verse 1 but of times and seasons brethren you have no need that I write unto you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

I don't need to write to you about times he's saying. I don't need to go into all the math. I don't need to figure out when, what and how.

Jesus said you don't know the day or the hour. Now the thing that he writes on to say is we're not to be taken off guard. We're not to be taken by surprise when the Lord comes.

We shouldn't be caught with our hand in the cookie jar. But of the times when the Lord comes we don't know. That's what the Bible is saying.

Secondly, the day of the Lord is always without exception referred to as a day of great darkness, clouds, and wrath. And this is without exception in the Old Testament. We find it in numerous places.

One example is Amos chapter 5. Without exception the coming of the Lord Jesus is not a happy day. It's not a happy day at all. Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord.

Amos 5.18 To what end is it for you? The day of the Lord is darkness not light. As if a man did flee from a lion and a bear met him or went into the house and leaned his hand on the wall and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness and not light? Even very dark and no brightness in it.

And then in the New Testament Jesus talks about it in Matthew 24 29-30 Immediately 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 heaven 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. Hallelujah. As in the days of Noah so shall it be in the days of the Son of Man.

Now the teaching would teach you that before Christ comes we set up the kingdom on earth for him to come back. The kingdom is all established for Christ to return. But that's not what it says in the scripture.

The scripture says as in the days of Noah so shall it be in the days of the Son of Man. When the devil has control of everything. When the devil is making his biggest onslaught then shall the Lord appear in great darkness.

The bright light will break forth. That's how the scripture says it will happen. The parable of the virgins 5 were wise 5 were foolish.

Why? Well, 5 had oil in their lamps 5 didn't. Why did they have oil in their lamps? Because they knew a time of darkness was coming. Okay, this false teaching cannot, it cannot account for the man of sin which is the antichrist, the 7 year tribulation in the time of Jacob's trouble, the abomination of desolation, the false prophet, the prophecies regarding the nation of Israel, the separation of the sheep from the goats, the resurrection of the dead.

Where does that fit in? None of these things can possibly fit into it. Let's go to Revelation chapter 20. Now if we are in the thousand years right now what of the resurrection? That should have already taken place.

What of the tribulation? What of the antichrist? What of the false prophet? What of the abomination that causes desolation? If we're in the thousand years already, these things are surely, oh, they've already passed. I missed it. I don't know if anyone else saw the abomination that causes desolation.

Revelation 20 verse 1. And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit, and a great chain in his hand, and he laid hold of the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that there he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled, and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they that sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them, and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or on their hands, and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years, but the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

The first resurrection being those who were dead because of the Antichrist's reign, were risen to reign for a thousand years. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection, on as such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God, and of kings, and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. Prior to this, Jesus comes.

Prior to this, the Antichrist comes. These are things that have to happen. But most importantly, brothers and sisters, and this is the part that should make everybody, check your ears.

Jesus said, he who has ears let him hear. Jesus said, he who has ears let him hear. Check your ears.

Okay? The scary thing about deception is you can believe a lie. And I may preach to you the word of God in its clearest, it may be so clear, and you may say no. Or someone may preach to you false, and you may say yes.

And it can be so obvious as night and day. But if your mind is not working functionally, how are you to tell? Now check your ears. We're going to read the scripture as clear as day.

This teaching denies the Lord Jesus coming back in the flesh. Rather it says that the Lord Jesus is coming back in the church, and not in the flesh. This is so key.

Okay. This is so dangerous. Second, John.

Dear brother John, he said, Second John 1.6, or there's only one chapter, 6 to 7. This is love, that we walk after His commandments. This is the commandment, that as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. Verse 7. For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is coming in the flesh.

This is a deceiver and an antichrist. For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Matthew 24, verse 5. Listen very carefully. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall deceive many.

Now notice it says, so many shall come in my name. This is Christians. This is not some false unbeliever who comes and says, I'm Jesus.

This is Christians, who say, I am Christ. Now we don't say, we are exactly Christ, when they teach that. But that's what it is.

All the scriptures, all the things that say, Jesus is coming in us. We are him. We are the coming of Jesus.

This is it. I am. For many shall come and say, I am Christ, and shall deceive many.

From the very beginning, it has been revealed by the Holy Spirit that through the word that the Lord will come again in the clouds with great power and glory, with a great host of heaven, in a shout of a trumpet blast. 1 Thessalonians 4, 16, and 17. Mark 14, and 62.

Jesus is standing before the council, and the council is accusing him of things. Know you the Christ? He says, yes, and you will see him, me. You will see the Christ come again in great power and glory on the clouds.

Remember at the council? And then they said, blasphemy, and throw him out. Jesus is coming for his church, not in his church. Acts chapter 1, Acts chapter 1, verse 9. Jesus is coming for his church, not in his church, in the clouds of glory.

Acts chapter 1, verse 9. Praise God. Thank you, Lord. Acts chapter 1, verse 9. And when he had spoken these things, while they been held, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight.

This is the disciples seeing Jesus ascend into heaven. And while they looked steadfastly towards heaven as he went up, he heard two men stood by in white apparel, which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why ye stand gazing up in heaven? This same Jesus, this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven. That is as clear as day is clear.

That is this same Jesus, the way you saw him go, he will come again. That is wonderful. I've studied this very fervently for quite a while, since I've gotten into this, and I've asked questions I haven't received no satisfying answers.

This same Jesus. Aren't you happy that's what's going to happen? Aren't you happy Jesus is coming back? And it's not just us. You know, saints of old have died and shed their blood and been martyred in this hope of Christ coming back.

They didn't die and say a hundred and two hundred years from now, the church is going to take over the world. They died and said Jesus is coming back and I'm going to be resurrected. That's what they said.

Jesus said in John 14 3, I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there ye may be also. That's the point of it all. Us being with Jesus.

Not us being Jesus, but us being with him. That's what it's all about. Emmanuel, God with us.

Where will this lead? This is my last point. Where will this lead? Brothers and sisters, this is not prophecy, this is just speculation of mine, but I believe and I could be wrong, but I fear that this teaching will be the Antichrist kingdom. That the kingdom of the Antichrist is the Christians who believe that they need to take over the world.

As the Bible said, this is the spirit of Antichrist. Who else than professing Christians? It's a scary thought and it shakes your core to think but maybe it's not going to be some Russian or some secular guy or some

Muslim, but maybe a professing Christian who's doing it in the name of God, who's killing in the name of God. This teaching leads to killing.

This is in its infant state right now. No one would say, no, we don't kill, but if you look at the Scripture and follow where this leads, remember, if the word is off a little bit, it's going to go way off in the end. In its infancy stages, it doesn't look too bad, but way off later.

If you study the Scriptures, you'll find people will be killing in the name of God, saying they're doing a favor. This is not the kingdom of God, the Russian or the English, but the kingdom of the devil. Isn't that the pattern of the devil? He inhabits people in order to take over the world because he doesn't want Christ's kingdom to come.

He tried it with the Nazis. It's the same thing. You know, Hitler called this thing the Third Reich, and he believed he was setting up a thousand year reign on the earth.

Hitler believed that. He believed that they were going to set up a thousand year reign, and he did it in the name of God. And you know, it started in its infancy stages, and nobody would have thought they would kill the Jews.

Nobody. But as it escalated, as the thing was off, it got really bad. And it's just reeks of the devil.

The Third Reich. It's always been on the agenda of the devil to take over the world. And it will happen when he comes with the man of perdition.

But thanks be to God, Jesus Christ, we'll have the last say. Blessed be God. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Don't get me wrong, I believe in revival, and I want to see a revival more than anybody. But I also believe that before Christ comes, things are going to get real bad. And that is the test of our faith, brothers and sisters.

The tribulation period, the time of testing and refinement and affliction. The time that will separate the true and the false. Many will fall away, but those who know their God will do great exploits.

That's talking about that time. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

And the other danger was it's going to be accompanied, as the Bible says, with many lying signs and wonders. And I have to say this just as a final point. Signs and wonders doesn't give any credibility to teaching whatsoever.

Now, the Bible says they confirm the signs and wonders, yes. But the Word itself is what is taught. I'm telling you, the Antichrist will do many great signs and wonders.

Many great signs and wonders. That's why I think that this thing's going to happen. And everyone's going to say, see, it's happening.

We're entering this third millennium. The miracles are happening. It's happening.

Get on the bandwagon. Everyone's going to jump on. And who's the only people that are not going to jump on? We'll look like fools.

Look, you're missing out. But the thing that we hang on to is the Word of God that says Jesus is coming. Hold to what is true.

Hold to what is true. Love the truth. Don't let your mind be reprobate.

Don't believe a lie. Because it's all in the purpose of God. All things are in His hands.

All things are in His will. And whether the devil rise up and take all the kingdoms of the world, the Lord is still on the throne. And the Lord is still judging the hearts of man.

And His whole thing, the whole thing is all about our faith. Our faith. Only when Jesus comes, this is the end, only when Jesus comes will the kingdoms of this world be the kingdoms of our Lord.

Let us too earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints. Saints, we're living in the last days. Test everything.

Hold to what is good. Don't reject truth only to swallow a lie. Hold to what is good.

God bless you. I'm sorry for preaching a message like this. This is what the Lord had me to say.

Praise the Lord. Thank you very much.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/12/SID12804.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/eli-brayley/the-power-and-danger-of-deception/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net