

Deception and Other Warning Signs

Are you **depressed**?

Do you have **anxiety**?

Do you have **little self-worth**?

Do you feel **alone and isolated**?

Does **life seem meaningless** to you?

Do you feel **hopeless and unimportant**?

Do you ever wonder, **what is life all about**?

Have you had or expressed **suicidal thoughts**?

Do you ever wonder, **what is your purpose in life**?

Do you ever wonder, why does the world have **HIV/Aids, or COVID-19**?

Do you ever look at the world around you and feel **confused and mixed up**?

Do you ever wonder why the world seems to be at war with its self? Do you see the conflict between the left and the right, between the liberal and the conservative? Do you ever wonder who is right and who is wrong? Does the conflict and the lack of answers make you frustrated?

Would you be willing to spend a little time to get answers to these and other questions? If so, read on a little further and let's see if we can answer these questions and make some sense out this world.

To start on our journey to answer these questions, let me ask a simple question, have you ever been lied to? How did it make you feel? Take time to think about your feelings, once you realized you had been lied to. The next thing you should ask yourself is why were you lied to. Was it to protect your feelings or did the liar have something to gain? What was the true motive behind the lie?

A moment ago, we mentioned the conflict in the world between the right and the left, the conservative and the liberal. How did we get to this point of conflict in the world? Could it be that somewhere, someone was lied to? And if someone was lied to, it appears that someone believed that lie and never discovered the truth.

Many years ago, someone talked about a situation like this and called it **DECEPTION**. This person warned us that we should take heed that we be not deceived. Taking heed means to 'pay attention to', 'take notice of', 'give consideration to', 'be on your guard against' or 'take warning of'. So you say, who was this person? The answer is, Jesus. Yes, "Take heed that no man deceive you." is from the Bible, Matthew 24:4.

The answer to what is really going on in the world really goes back to the beginning of time. It's the result of the struggle between good and evil, between God and satan. From man's beginning back in the Garden of Eden, God has always wanted the very best for man, while the devil, satan, has always wanted to destroy man. What you and I are experiencing, is this struggle between good and evil. The frustration, the despair, the anxiousness, the depression is what we experience when we are caught in the middle of this spiritual battle between good and evil.

So, is there a way that we can be set free from the frustration, the despair, the anxiousness and the depression? Yes, there certainly is! The first step to being set free is to understand the basic cause of all the negative emotions. Once we understand that we are just a pawn in this struggle between good and evil, we can begin to take charge of our life and begin to exercise control over how life affects us.

The next major step is dealing with the issue of deception. None of us like to be lied to, but we all know it happens. But what most of us find worse than being lied to is admitting to ourselves that we have been lied to. Admitting to ourselves that we have been deceived. It can make us feel stupid or feel like a failure once we finally realize we have been duped.

It can be a long process examining what we have been told all our lives and determining what is true and what was false. First, we need to realize that many of our trusted sources of information may be from people who are themselves deceived, but don't realize it. The point is, to discover the truth we must be willing to question and to examine everything that we believe.

A good place to start this examination process is with an unbiased source. But where can we turn to find such a source? Our family and friends all have a vested interest in us. Almost all of the media has a vested interest in promoting their point of view. So, just where can we turn? As mentioned earlier, God has always wanted the very best for man while the devil, satan, has always wanted to destroy man. In Matthew 24, Jesus not only warned us numerous times to watch that we be not deceived, He also warned us of several other things to watch for at the time just prior to His return to the earth.

You might be saying about now, "This guys a real kook". Well, stay with me a little longer before you write me off as a real nut job. After all, what do you have to lose other than a few minutes of time? Two thousand years ago, Jesus warned us to watch for deception and we can certainly see that one of these two groups, liberals vs. conservatives, are definitely deceived. Their two opposing views can't both be right. Let's see if any of Jesus' other warnings are coming to pass.

- Rumors of wars - Do you see any signs of rumors of wars?
- Wars - Have you seen any wars in your lifetime?
- Pestilences - Do you see any pestilences, HIV/Aids, N1H1, COVID-19?
- Earthquakes - Have you noticed that earthquakes are increasing?
- Afflictions - Do you see any afflictions, Cancer, Autism and Alzheimer's?
- Betrayals - Do you ever feel like you have been betrayed?

You probably see many of these warning signs, but if you don't, we live in the digital age and it would be very easy for you to do the research to check it out yourself. Better yet, why don't we look at it together.

Matthew chapter 24 is called the Olivet Discourse because that is the location where Jesus spoke these words. These words were recorded in Matthew along with Mark chapter 13 and Luke chapter 21. For our review, we will limit our scope of study to Matthew's version of the discourse. Jesus' disciples asked Him three specific questions. The first question is, "When shall these things be?", where His disciples are referring to the destruction of the temple buildings. The second and third questions are, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world?". Wow, 2,000 years ago people thought the world would come to an end one day.

What we have here are three distinct questions, but depending on your point of view there may be multiple answers to those questions, or no answer at all. The first question as to the destruction of the temple may or may not have been answered, it's hard to say being nearly 2,000 years removed from that event. It seems that the discourse can be divided into five components. The components of most interest to us are the first three.

THE COMPONENTS OF THE OLIVET DISCOURSE	
Matt. 24: 4-14	A description of the worsening conditions in the world leading up to the rapture of the church.
Matt. 24:15-22	A description of a major even that will usher in the second half of the tribulation and the end of the world (the Wrath of God) as we know it.
Matt. 24:23-31	A description of the rapture of the church and a description of the signs to look for just before its occurrence.
Matt. 24:32 - Matt. 25:30	A description via parables of the time just prior to the rapture of the church and how the church should watch and live to be prepared for Christ's coming.

If the question as to when the temple buildings would be destroyed is answered, it would have been answered somewhere between verses 4 and 14 of Matthew chapter 24. Whether it was or was not answered is somewhat immaterial to us. What is of most importance to us is that these verses certainly apply to the time since the disciples asked the question and to our time today. There are a lot of things mentioned that we should be looking for, rumors of wars, wars, pestilences, earthquakes, afflictions, betrayals, but the most significant and often repeated sign to look for is that of deception. If you are sufficiently deceived, all the other signs could be present, yet they could be overlooked or ignored.

In the following paragraphs I will be dealing with some subject matter that could be construed by some as controversial or hateful. There is no intention whatsoever to disparage or in any way hurt any individual or group of individuals. They, just like everyone else have been given, by God, their free will to live as they please. However, I will not apologize for my beliefs and view points on such matters, nor for God's Word on such matters.

Deception

*And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man **deceive** you.*

Matt 24:4 KJV

*For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall **deceive** many.*

Matt 24:5 KJV

*And many false prophets shall rise, and shall **deceive** many.*

Matt 24:11 KJV

*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.*

Matt 24:24 KJV

Throughout time man has chosen to do that which God has declared man should not do. It began when the serpent beguiled Eve and she ate from the tree that was forbidden. God had told Adam and Eve that they would die if they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But Eve was deceived by the serpent and she ate, and Adam ate of it also. Since the beginning of time man has been vulnerable to deception.

Does anyone see any signs of deception in our time? Jesus says that this is what we should guard ourselves against. Depending on what news media you tune into, the views of the world are as

different as night and day. It seems that some news media present the world from a liberal point of view while some other news media present the world from a conservative point of view.

The liberal point of view tells us that global warming, now called climate change, will cause the world to come to an end in just a few short years. The conservative view rejects the global warming hypothesis. Many experts attempt to offer proof against global warming only to have their arguments dismissed and their names disparaged. Even in this we can see deceit and hypocrisy.

So, who should we believe? The liberals or the conservatives? In Genesis 8:22 God tells us "*While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease*". Whom shall we believe, God or man? How ironic that the world tells us that climate change is going to destroy the world, yet God tells us in Revelation how He will destroy the earth one day and the world chooses to scoff.

We are living in an age where men claim to be women and women claim to be men. We are living in a time when parents and schools are pushing children to claim to be a sex that is different than when they were born. California and other states are now offering non-binary options in place of male and female for birth certificate designations. Yet if you choose to disapprove of this progressive or liberal life style in any way, you are labeled a bigot, a purveyor of hate speech, and in some places you may be charged with a crime. Yet God said in Genesis 1:27 "*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them*".

Throughout history there have been occurrences of same sex relationships. Though they existed, they usually were kept private and the general population was mostly unaware of them. Over the past few decades however, there has been a marked change. Not only has the LGBTQ community come out of the closet as they call it, but it seems as if they wish to make their lifestyle part of mainstream society. Everywhere we turn, the lifestyle is being pushed as the norm even though it is only about 4.5% of the United States population according to a 2017 Gallup poll. We see it in major box office movies, we see it in television programs, we see it is promoted in commercial programming on television. We have seen lawsuits arise where individuals and small businesses have been sued because they have chosen to not perform a service or function that would cause them to violate their Christian beliefs. All too frequently, it can even be seen as a major dividing factor within many church denominations as well as local congregations.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward

another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Romans 1:22-29 KJV

One of the greatest deceptions of our age is that of Roe vs. Wade and the issue of abortion. Since the landmark case of Roe vs. Wade in 1973, there have been over sixty million innocent children murdered in the United States. But this is not an issue affecting just the United States, it is a worldwide problem. Around the world young women, mothers, have been convinced that it is their right to have control over their bodies, their right to choose whether to have a pregnancy, or not to have a pregnancy.

That right to choose is theirs, but they made that choice when they chose to get pregnant. They had every right to take actions to prevent a pregnancy. They had every right to abstain from having sex, but they have no moral right to take the life of an innocent and helpless unborn child just because they made a prior bad choice. The world doesn't teach them to be moral, responsible, mature adults that accept the consequences of their decisions and actions. Because of the deception of abortion, there are now millions of women who find themselves, later in life, suffering the guilt and shame of having murdered their own child.

Many of the same individuals, who so freely promote and exalt the virtues of abortion, are at the same time staunch supporters of PETA and ASPCA. PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and ASPCA, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, are both American organizations working to stop animal abuse and fighting to prevent animal cruelty. Animals certainly shouldn't be treated cruelly or in an abusive manner. But, the irony is, that many PETA and ASPCA supporters openly advocate for the abortion of innocent unborn children. Anyone who thinks that abortion isn't cruel or abusive should watch the movies 'Unplanned' and 'Gosnell: The Trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer'.

Does anyone see deceit and apostasy at work in our world today?

Next, we will briefly cover the other signs from Matthew chapter 24 that Jesus told us we should be watching for. The signs that we should be looking for in the end times were "rumors of wars, wars, pestilences, earthquakes, afflictions and betrayals".

Rumors of Wars and Wars

Let's start by examining the issue of rumors of war and wars. If one does an Internet Google search on the term "history of war" you can see the following statement, "**War** is defined as an active conflict that has claimed more than 1,000 lives. Of the past 3,400 years, humans have been entirely at peace for only 268 of them, or just 8 percent of recorded history."

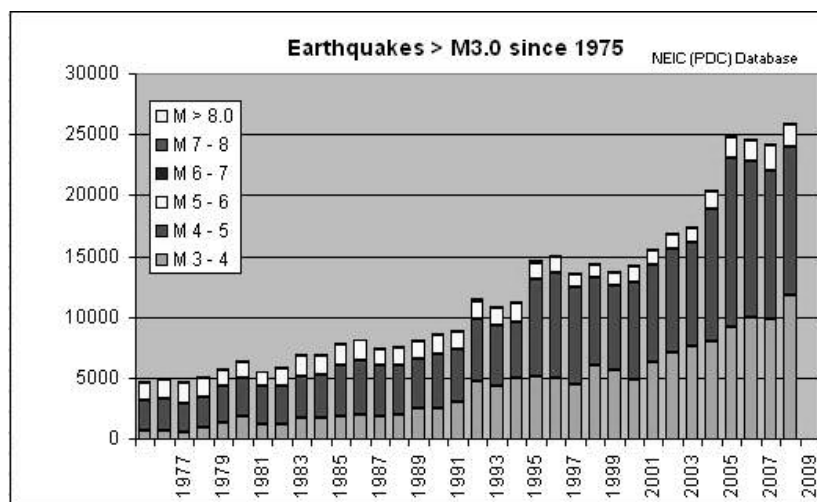
In just the past 125 years mankind has witnessed two world wars and concern over the potential of a third world war has been constantly with us ever since the Cuban missile crisis of the 1960s. The first world war saw approximately 20 million people killed and the second world war saw the loss of life accelerate to an estimated 70 to 85 million individuals. Since the introduction of nuclear weapons at the conclusion of world war two, the world has seen the size and power of those weapons increase by more than a hundred fold. These weapons have proliferated to the point where multiple countries have tens of thousands of them. These nuclear weapons, along with other radiological, chemical and biological weapons, have come to be known as weapons of mass destruction because of the over whelming damage they are capable of producing. For at least the past fifty years, there have been talks and rumors of man totally destroying himself and the earth, as mankind continually lives on the brink of a potential third world war. It is rumored that if a third world war occurred, the casualties would number into the billions. Does this describe the end time that Jesus forewarned us about?

Pestilences

Pestilences were the next items we were told to watch for in the end times. Since the beginning of the Twentieth Century we have seen many pestilences affect different regions of the world and a few have impacted the entire world. One of the most notable and deadly of these was the 1918 flu pandemic that was estimated to have taken the lives of up to 100 million people. Another major example was the worldwide HIV/AIDS pandemic that began in the second half of the Twentieth Century and continues on today. It seems to be less of a pandemic now than it was , but since its emergence, it has taken approximately 30 million lives.

Earthquakes

The next item in the list that Jesus gave us to watch for is earthquakes in diverse places.



This graph from the National Earthquake Information Center (*NEIC*), a division of the US Geological Survey, a scientific agency of the US government, shows a dramatic increase in earthquakes just since 1977. The number of magnitude three through five earthquakes have been increasing dramatically since the end of the last century.

Afflictions

The definition of an affliction is a curse to bear, or something that causes agony, suffering, or great pain. Polio was a prominent disease during the 1950s that caused wide spread affliction. Fortunately, a vaccine was created in the 1950s and the disease has been nearly eradicated. Cancer is another affliction that has brought wide spread affliction and distress to many around the world. Although modern medicine has made great strides in its fight against this disease, cancer still remains one of the most dreaded words in our language due to the extreme suffering and pain that we all associate with it. Autism and Alzheimer's are other afflictions that we see so prevalent in our time.

Betrayals

Last in the list of the signs that we were to watch for by Jesus was betrayals. So where might we find evidence of betrayal? Many countries around the world have made it so difficult to be a Christian that many believers must gather and worship in secret. To do otherwise, they risk imprisonment or potential death. In America, we have been blessed, that this is not the case here. Due to the freedoms established by our founding fathers we are able to worship and believe as we wish.

But, there are other forms of betrayal besides just physical betrayal. If we look in the right areas, we can see examples of betrayal in our society as well. The betrayal in our society comes via the sign we were most warned about, deceit. Let's look at a couple of examples. Walt Disney is a household name in our society and around the world. The company he formed became famous around the world for the wholesome, family and child oriented quality entertainment that it produced for many decades. However, Disney has been pressured by the LGBTQ community to portray more openly gay relationships in their shows and movies. In an episode of the XD Series "Star vs. the Forces of Evil" that aired recently, Disney showed several gay kisses. This is not the kind of programming young children should be subjected to. Another case in point is the TV series "The Owl House". Life Site News says, "Disney introduces kids to a world of demons and witchcraft in the new 'The Owl House' show". This is betrayal to the extreme. A company that the world has come to love and trust, we must now censor, and worry about what subtle message may be getting promoted to our very young children.

But it is not just the youngest children that are in danger. We see the same happening with our young adult children as well. America is filled with centers for higher learning. Many of the original centers of higher education were founded with the specific purpose of training ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and promoting Christian values and Christian thought. Yet today most of

Americas' centers of higher education have become centers of liberal thought and liberal ideas where conservative ideas and Christian values are unwelcome. Indeed, the colleges and universities have become safe zones, where those conservative ideas and Christian values are not allowed to be discussed or even presented for consideration. Many parents send their young adult children to these schools unaware of what they are really being taught.

College	Founding	Founding Purpose
Harvard University	1636	Originally called "New College", its purpose was mainly to educate clergy. It was renamed Harvard University in 1639 after the Rev. John Harvard.
College of William and Mary	1693	King William III and Queen Mary II of England signed the charter for a "perpetual College of Divinity, Philosophy, Languages, and other good Arts and Sciences" in 1693.
Yale University	1701	Yale Chartered by Connecticut Colony, the "Collegiate School" was established in 1701 by clergy to educate Congregational ministers.
Princeton University	1746	New Light Presbyterians founded the College of New Jersey, later Princeton University, in 1746 in order to train ministers dedicated to their views.
Dartmouth College	1769	Dartmouth College was founded in 1769 by Eleazar Wheelock, a Congregational minister from Columbia, Connecticut, who had sought to establish a school to train Native Americans as Christian missionaries.

Now that we have covered the signs that Jesus warned us to watch for, we can ask, are there any other signs that might offer additional clues as to how near the return of Jesus really is?

Forbidding To Marry

Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

1 Timothy 4:3 KJV

Another end time prophecy is found in the verse above. We know that this is an end time prophecy because in 1 Timothy chapter 4 verse 1 it says "Now..., in the latter times". The main point for us to look at in this verse is the phrase "abstain from meats". As the global warming crowd expound their philosophy, they have focused in on CO2 emissions. Their argument is that mankind's only way to stop global warming is to lower CO2 emissions. Their argument comes up

lacking, in that mans' CO2 emissions per year amount to less CO2 than is produced by just one volcanic eruption. If mankind was able to eliminate all manmade CO2 emissions, it would lower total CO2 emissions less than one percent. The true reason for pushing the lowering of CO2 emissions is to promote the redistribution of wealth. The major emphasis is to bolster fear and thereby to get wealthy industrialized countries to buy carbon credits from non-industrialized poor countries. The buying of the carbon credits does nothing to change the CO2 emission rate of mankind, its only impact is to transfer wealth from a rich country to a poor country. Out of this CO2 charade has arisen an argument against eating meat and eliminating the beef industry, because cows produce methane gas as part of their life process.

Calling Evil Good, and Good Evil

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!


Isaiah 5:20 KJV

We spoke earlier about the view of the world differing according to the perspective of the news program that one might choose to listen to, or how your world view differs depending on whether you look at the world from a liberal point of view or from a conservative point of view. There is no question that we are living in a highly divided world. In the verse above, although it is not a specific end time prophecy, it does paint a very accurate description of our world today. It is a warning for every age to not call evil good nor to call good evil.

It is a very fascinating verse to consider. In the past few years, there have been examples of both of the above mentioned world views using this verse to drive home their message and to confirm that their world view is not only the correct view, but that it also aligns with God's view.

Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

Luke 11:35

Liberal View Point Example Argument
Conservative Christians condemn homosexuals and their lifestyle. They discriminate against them and claim that God has not forgiven them. How can they be so unforgiving and hateful when God says He loves everyone. Racism, bigotry, xenophobia and sexism are their' so called Christian values. They call evil good and good evil.

Conservative View Point Example Argument
Liberal Christians welcome homosexuals and their lifestyle. They embrace them within the body of the church and even welcome them as Pastors and church leaders. How can they ignore God's condemnation against this perverted lifestyle. Why do they think my moral values are hate speech? They call evil good and good evil.

So what is going on here? Can both of these viewpoints be true? Can they both possibly line up with God's Word? No way! One of these two arguments has been caught in the middle of great deception. That was the major warning sign from Jesus. So what do we do? How do we determine which viewpoint aligns with God? Prayer and the study of God's Word is the only way to discern the truth. The following prayer would be a good starting place for anyone with a desire to know the truth.

Almighty God, whatever I'm calling good in my life that is evil, or evil in my life that is good – all according to Your standards, please, make me aware and help me change. Amen.

The next thing we should do is evaluate what we believe and then study God's Word. Do our beliefs align with God's Word? Are the words we are using to characterize our beliefs accurate or deceptive? Semantics are very important. As we saw earlier in our discussion, global warming is now called climate change. Did the definition change when the name changed? Not at all! But the believability and the ability to deceive, definitely increased. Who wouldn't believe in climate change. We see the seasons change every few months and the weather changes weekly if not daily.

Semantics are very important. We can use semantics to turn our morals into acceptance. A little hocus-pocus and all of sudden evil is good and good is evil. Take an example of pornography. Call it art and it's no longer evil. Really? He called it consensual sex. She called it rape. Which was it? We are living in an age where man has mastered the art of calling things by new names that successfully alter their real character or meaning. Man is carefully polishing off every edge and point and corner that might prick conscience into activity. We are toning down our moral values until we can hardly tell for certain what is right and what is wrong, what is evil and what is good.

The simple truth is that preachers are not preaching the simple truth. As preaching has drifted further and further from the Bible, so the people who hear such preaching have drifted further and further from the Bible and God's truth. The only solution is to go back to the Bible as the final and absolute revelation of God's will, and as the final standard of what is right and what is wrong.

So, back to our example of the liberal and conservative viewpoints. The liberal says, God is love and how can the conservative be so hateful. The conservative says, God condemned the homosexual lifestyle and how can the liberal accept it.

Billy Graham says the following:

"Modern man does not like to think of God in terms of wrath, anger and judgment. He likes to make God according to his own ideas and give God the characteristics he wants Him to possess. Man tries to remake God to conform to his own wishful thinking, so that he can make himself comfortable in his sins.

This modern god has the attributes of love, mercy and forgiveness, but is without justice. Man doesn't want to be judged and punished for sin. He "reconstructs" God along the lines of tolerance, all-embracing love and universal goodwill."

The truth is, God is love. He loved the homosexual, the conservative and the liberal so much that He gave His Son's life for their sins. But that love from God must be accepted by the sinner and that sinner must repent and turn from his sin. God is also just. God clearly says in His Word that those who are sinners shall not inherit the kingdom of God. God is truth and God can not lie.

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.

John 3:16 KJV

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

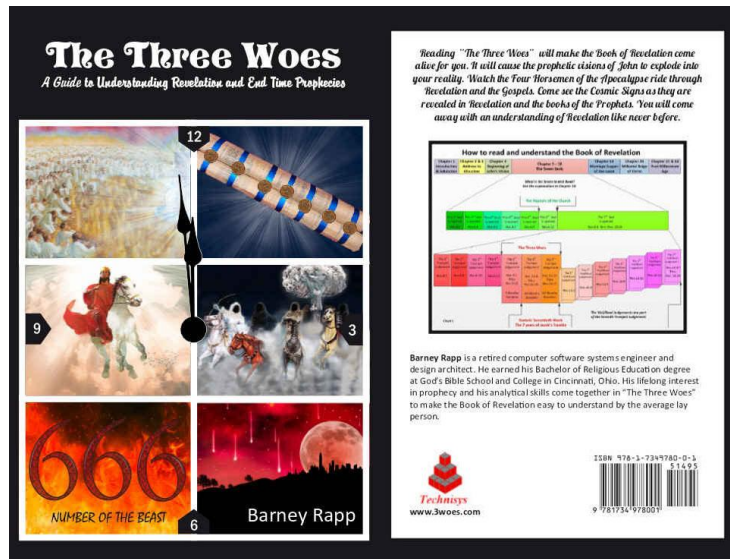
1 Corinthians 6:9-10 KJV

We have just reviewed a lengthy list of scriptures to see if we could find any signs of deception or any of the other signs that Jesus warned us about. So what do you think? Did you see any of the signs that Jesus said would occur just before He would return to earth? Did you see signs of deception? Have we looked at everything concerning the end times? No way, not at all. From prophetic scripture we know a third temple will exist during the tribulation and throughout Israel there is talk of building the third temple. Most if not all of the temple vessels have been replaced and are ready for service. Much is being discussed concerning the "Deal of the Century", the proposed peace plan between Israel and her neighbors. Could this plan be the one that will usher in the tribulation period? Only time will tell.

What you have just read was taken from chapter 5 of "The Three Woes".

- Where did Man come from? (Our Origin)
- Who Am I? (Identity)
- What is my Purpose in life? (Purpose)
- Why is the world the way it is? (Problem)
- Why do I need a Savior? (Solution)
- What Happens After I Die? (Destiny)
- What is the Tribulation? (Trouble)
- Who is the Antichrist? (Demonic Evil)
- What is the Mark of the Beast? (Ownership)
- What is the Rapture? (God's Deliverance)

Answers to these and other questions are discussed in "The Three Woes".



"The Three Woes" can be purchased online at the following WEB sites:

Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/1734978007/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+three+woes+a+guide+to+understanding+revelation&link_code=gs&qid=1589974124&sourceid=Mozilla-search&sr=8-1

Barnes & Noble

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-three-woes-barney-lee-rapp/1137033530?ean=9781734978001>

Books-A-Million

<https://www.booksamillion.com/p/Three-Woes/Barney-Lee-Rapp/9781734978001?id=7905839877674#>