

Deception and the End-Times

Douglas Riggs, 1996

I have been the pastor of a small assembly called *Morning Star Testimony Church* for 13 years. Our fellowship came into being as a result of praying Paul's prayers, which he prayed for the corporate Body of Christ in his epistles: Eph. 1:16-19 w/3:16-19 w/Phil. 1:9-11 w/Col 1:9-12; 4:12 w/I Thes. 3:13 w/Thes. 1:10-12; along with his personal desire for attaining the goal of Phil. 3:7-17 w/Eph. 4:13. The formation of our church was also the result of the in-depth verse-by-verse teaching from the book of Ephesians which occurred over a period of three years.

Along with the ministry of teaching of the Word of God, I began counseling believers with various problems and strongholds. This eventually led to the discovery of Satanic Ritual Abuse in the background of some of the people. Many of these reported being born into families who were multigenerational Satanists. Through these idolatrous practices, attendant familial abuse and resultant demonization, I entered the realm of spiritual warfare surrounding Multiple Personality Disorder in the context of Satanic Ritual Abuse. (See my articles [*The Brokenhearted*](#) and [*Pulverized Saints*](#).) Having worked in this area for almost five years, I have learned many things concerning the ways Satan is deceiving the world - especially Christians - in his plan to establish a New World Order under the leadership of the two beasts of Revelation 13, namely the antichrist and the false prophet. I have been working with Christians who have been programmed to carry out different objectives in bringing in the New World Order!

I live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where the founder of the charismatic movement, Oral Roberts, has his headquarters for his worldwide "ministry." He believes that the Church is to be unified through signs, wonders, and miracles. I am working with Christians who have reported being ritually abused and programmed at his university for the purpose of infiltrating the Church with these demonically empowered "gifts of healing and ministry" in order to deceive believers and divide the

Church. We should not as Christians be surprised by such activity of Satan within the Church because the Word of God has warned us that such events would occur, especially in the last days of the Church Age, leading to the glorious appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will look at several passages of Scripture that describe and warn Christians of the deceptive activity of Satan within the Church.

I Timothy 4:1- *"But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons."*

Paul, by the Holy Spirit, states that some believers will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons. When he uses the term *"the faith"* he is referring to the whole body of New Testament doctrine or truth as the objective Word of God (I Tim. 1:19 w/4:6 w/6:10,21 w/II Tim. 2:15 and Jude 3 w/Acts 2:42). It is extremely important to notice what is before us in this passage. There is a direct contrast between the objective Word of God, *"the faith"*, and *"deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons."* THE faith, being the objective Word of God, is in contrast to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, which originate from subjective, demonically-influenced experiences. Many hungry believers are being led astray by seeking subjective experiences instead of what the objective Word of God has set forth as God's goal for the Church. This goal is the corporate fulfillment of Jesus' prayer in John 17. In verses 21 and 23, Jesus prays that the whole Body of Christ would become experientially one with the Father and the Son, a unity based on the same love for the Church which the Father has for His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

In II Corinthians 11, the Apostle Paul, writing to the believers at Corinth, is trying to protect those naive, headstrong believers from being deceived. Those seeking to deceive the Corinthian church are described as *"super apostles"* in verse 5, who were seeking to subvert and undermine Paul's apostolic authority. Paul further describes these so-called 'apostles' (official messengers of Christ) in verse 13 as *"false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ"*! In verse 15 he further states they even disguised themselves as ministers of

righteousness.

Paul states in verse 14 that this activity of treacherous deception by those pseudo-apostles should be of no surprise to the discerning believer because even "*satan disguises himself as an angel of light!*" NOT an angel of darkness, but *an angel of light*. Satan knows the Bible better than many Christians and approaches them through his "servants of righteousness" on a spiritual level, using all the right phrases and spiritual jargon in order to deceive! (See verse 4). Paul uses the term "disguise" three times in verses 13-15, describing the religious activity of both Satan and his servants. The Greek word is the present active indicative of *metaschematizo*. This compound word consists of the preposition *meta* which denotes change or alteration, plus the word derived from *schema*.

According to G. Braumann in ***The Dictionary of New Testament Theology***, Vol. 1, pg 708ff: *schema* denotes "outward appearance, form or shape." Braumann further states that the word in classical Greek literally means "appearance as opposed to reality." He then states that the term *metaschematizo* "indicates that process by which an object or person is thoroughly transformed and changed." Therefore, these deceivers of Corinth were Satanically-transformed "apostles" masquerading as "servants" of Christ for the purpose of deceiving Christians! These deceivers were in the Church, preaching another Jesus and a different gospel! (verse 4)

In II Timothy 3:1, Paul, by the Holy Spirit, states "*But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.*" The Holy Spirit warns the Church that in the last days difficult times will come. The word '*difficult*' is a translation of the Greek word *chalepos*. This word is used in only one other place in the New Testament. It is used by Matthew to describe an "*exceedingly violent*" demon-possessed person in Matthew 8:28. The expanded definition of this term denotes that the last days of the Church Age will be hard to deal with, violent, harsh, painful, fierce, savage, perilous, grievous and full of trouble. Paul then goes on to describe the conditions within the Church in verses 2-5. The Word of God states that those same people who are described in verses 2-4 (notice the eighteen descriptive references to these vicious, self-centered people) hold to a form of

godliness or reverence for the things of God!

Paul further states in verse 8 that *"just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses"* so these men (of verse 2ff) will also oppose the truth, *"men of depraved mind"*, i.e., completely corrupted and perverted in their thinking! These men are rejected or disqualified as regards the faith or the truth of the gospel! We know from Exodus 7:11 that those who opposed Moses possessed occult powers through the agency of demonic spirits.

In the same context, Paul further describes the men who will be infiltrating the Church in the last days as evil men and imposters (vs. 13). The term translated "imposters" is the Greek word *goes* and occurs only in this passage. According to Delling in ***The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*** Edited by G. Kittel, Vol. 1, pg. 737ff, this term "mostly has ... the strict sense of a magician especially one who works with verbal formula." These occult magicians are charlatan ministers, deceivers who, according to Delling, "abuse the divine gift of speech" for the purpose of deceiving others through their "hypocritical conduct" and that this term "always carries with it the thought of deliberate deceit." Delling concludes his comments on this word *goes* by saying that it conveys "the sense of one who entices to impious action by apparently pious words."

In II Peter 2:1-3, the Holy Spirit warns *believers* *"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep."* Peter, by the Holy Spirit, declares in verse one that false teachers in the Church will secretly introduce destructive heresies or false teachings. The word '*secretly*' is the future active indicative of the verb *pareisago*. The Holy Spirit is saying that these false teachers are introducing new teachings or revelations in addition to what the Church had already received from the New Testament apostles (II Pet. 3:2).

According to J.N.O. Kelly in ***A Commentary of the Epistles of Peter and Jude***, pg. 326, destructive heresies are being introduced by stealth "in an underhanded way." (Compare Jude's use of the kindred verb in Jude 4). RCH Lenski in his work ***The Interpretation of the Epistles of St. Peter, St. John and St. Jude***, pg. 309, says that these false teachers will introduce to the Church these destructive heresies "sneakingly, covertly, so that unwary, simple people will not notice what these teachers are bringing in." What is their goal? In verse 3, Peter continues that in their insatiable greed for power and *recognition* "they will exploit you", future middle indicative of *empoeuomai*.

D. Edmond Hiebert in ***Second Peter and Jude***, pg. 93, states that the term means "to do business, to trade. But in keeping with the cheating that often attended such trading, the term readily came to denote deceptive exploitation. These teachers will skillfully use their contrived arguments as counterfeit coinage to make a profitable bargain ...they will seek to make a personal profit out of them; their concern will not be the welfare of the sheep but *only* a concern to shear their wool." How will they make merchandise of naive believers? "*With false words.*" The adjective *plastos* means "made up, molded, forged, factitious, words carefully fabricated and molded to achieve their purpose; being artificially formed to deceive and lead astray." Is this not what is occurring in many of our churches today who have abandoned the Word of God as the final criterion for doctrine and practice? Why? In order to follow their own lust for a super-spiritual experience with God in contrast to a walk of humility, faith and dependence upon the Lord, to show forth His grace, truth and love to a dying and needy world (Micah 6:8).

The apostle John declared in I John 2:18-19 that the many antichrists who had arisen in the Church had once served alongside of the apostles in the Body of Christ. Apparently those many antichrists couldn't be detected until they had departed from fellowship with the true people of God. God's provision of *his* Word, in relation to the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit, is given to protect believers from those who masquerade as ministers of righteousness and apostles of Christ.

As I stated earlier, I pastor a church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which is considered the "charismatic capital" of the world. I have been working with people who report being abused and programmed by some who are the alleged founders of the charismatic movement, with its emphasis on signs, wonders, and miracles. I am not the only one who has heard reports of this nature. These reports may seem incredulous to many who are not aware of how Satan operates as an angel of light. This is understandable but nevertheless is inexcusable in light of the clear warnings in the Word of God concerning the end times. It is time for believers to wake up and recognize that we are at war! (For further study, see Jer. 23; Ezek. 13; Acts 20:28-31; Rom. 16:17-18; Col. 2:8 w/18-19; Heb. 5:11-14; Eph. 6:10-13).

I would like to quote extensively from a book titled [**Occult Bondage and Deliveranced**](#) by Kurt E. Koch, who is now with the Lord. (Permission granted by Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, MI, 49501) Koch was a pioneer in his work of counseling people who were captives to various forms of occultism and demonic powers. He counseled over 4,000 people in his lifetime of ministry and had great spiritual discernment in the area of occultism and its demonic source of deception and bondage. On page 42, in his chapter entitled "Mediumistic Healing" he says, "Mediumistic forces are equally as dangerous even when they are being used for a supposedly humanitarian or social reason, as is the case with the so-called spiritual healers of today. These healers are to be found in almost every country one visits, and their powers, almost without exception, are of a mediumistic nature."

The author then gives numerous examples of those he has observed as occult healers. On pages 52 and following, he continues to give examples of those so-called healers by stating, "I come now to a painful duty I have put off for many years. However, after a great deal of prayer, I feel I must fulfill the obligation which God has placed on me. In the autumn of 1966, together with about 2,000 other delegates, observers and staff members, I attended the World Congress on Evangelism in Berlin. Among the leaders of the various discussion groups was Oral Roberts, a man who had been publicly greeted by Billy Graham on the platform. As a fellow

delegate, I wrote to the committee informing them of the fact that the healing ability of Oral Roberts was of a mediumistic rather than a charismatic nature.

"The letter caused a lot of anger among those who read it and the next day Billy Graham introduced Oral Roberts a second time to the great audience, putting his arm round his shoulder and addressing him by the name of brother. I have been troubled for some years now by this lack of discernment on the part of Billy Graham and his committee. Previously I have been unprepared to write about it for fear of damaging their work, a work which I personally value, and which I in no wise wish to hinder. However, on account of the immense amount of damage which is being caused by Oral Roberts in many areas of the world, I feel unable to remain silent any longer. When Dr. Edman, the late chancellor of Wheaton College and friend of Billy Graham was still alive, I talked with him about this problem. He was readily able to understand and appreciate the warning I wanted to give. I also spoke to John Bolten, the treasurer of the Billy Graham team, at Scholb Mittersill in Germany. My desire was that these men, as two of the closest friends of Billy Graham, would speak to him personally about the matter, but as yet I do not know what the outcome has been. Billy Graham is in fact a man whom God has been able to use mightily throughout the world. As an evangelist, he commands a greater audience for the Gospel than almost any other person alive. It would be incorrect to question the work of a man in his position whom God is blessing so much. Yet even great men can make mistakes. Not every person has all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. My prayer is therefore that in the light of the harmful activities of Oral Roberts, Billy Graham will be given a greater gift of discernment in these matters. To argue that Oral Roberts has founded a university, or has collected millions of dollars for the kingdom of heaven, is no proof that he derived his healing ability from God. It could just as easily be said that, since Harry Edwards has collected thousands of pounds for his healing ministry and has become the leader of an organization numbering over 2,000 spiritual healers, his powers must be of divine origin, which is patently not true. And so, only after a great deal of prayer and after a number of unsuccessful

attempts to warn both Billy Graham and his friends, am I forced to bring these things to the notice of the Christian public at large. And I speak as one who has been able to witness the negative effects of the work of Oral Roberts in a number of countries throughout the world.

“Although Oral Roberts is probably unaware of the fact himself, his power to heal is more indicative of a mediumistic ability than a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is possible that he originally received these mediumistic powers from the old Indian who once healed him in his younger days. He actually spoke about this at the Berlin Congress.

"Although a number of people have begged me urgently to publish examples of his healing ability, I am still unwilling to go into detailed accounts of his ministry, for I do not want a book on counseling to be filled with negative examples. It is the Lord Jesus and not man to whom we should listen, and to whom we should give the right to speak. Nevertheless, as a warning to Christians I will quote just three examples concerning his work.

"Ex. 28 One of the most terrible stories relating to Oral Roberts came to me through a believing minister who is himself much used of the Lord. Together with his father-in-law who is also a Christian, he went to one of Oral Roberts' meetings. What he wrote to me afterwards is too terrible to recount in full, so I will quote only the last few lines of his letter. 'I am certain about one thing though, there is a great deal of swindle buried beneath the arrogant performances of Oral Roberts. Thank God that if our Christian faith is sound, by following the inner guidance of the Lord and by adopting the correct biblical attitude, we will be able to experience case upon case of healing by faith. in this situation there is no question of following a blueprint as 'divine healers' so often do.'

“Ex. 29 Once when I was holding a series of meetings in Singapore, a Christian missionary told me about one of Oral Roberts’ healing campaigns. Roberts had told a young man, ‘In the name of Jesus you are healed.’ Later, however, it appeared that he had not been cured. His father therefore, a quick-tempered Malay, took a revolver and went to find the 'lying healer' as he called him in order to shoot him. Fortunately

by this time Oral Roberts had already left the country.

"Ex. 30 During the Berlin Congress on Evangelism another very significant event took place. It was during a meeting of one of the subcommittees and Oral Roberts was the leader. There were about 300 delegates present including the Rev. Pagel, the evangelist Leo Janz and myself. Roberts had been speaking on the subject of healing when one of the Americans present asked him, 'Mr. Roberts, isn't it true that during your television programs you have sometimes asked the viewers to place a glass of water on the television during the actual broadcast?' After receiving an affirmative answer, his questioner went on, 'And isn't it also true that at the end of the programs you have told the viewers to drink the water if they are seeking healing?' Again, in the presence of the 300 or so delegates Oral Roberts replied, 'Yes.' That was honest of him. But what type of healing is this? Occasionally during similar programs one of the viewers has been asked to place his hand on the television set and with his free hand to either touch or to form a chain with the other viewers present. But this is the sort of practice one finds in connection with spiritistic table lifting, when chains are formed in order to encourage the flow of mediumistic forces.

"Where is the actual atmosphere of the New Testament here? This is rather just the kind of hectic climate in which the suggestive or religious suggestive ideas are being bred that masquerade today under the name of faith-healing."

Having quoted extensively from Mr. Koch, I will conclude this article with the following words of Jesus Christ in Matthew 7:15-23. *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on*

that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

It is quite clear from these passages (see also II Thes. 2:7-12 w/Rev. 13:11-14; 16:13-14 w/Mt. 24:4-5, 11, 23-26) that all those who claim to prophesy (speak the Word of God), cast out demons and perform many miracles all in the name of Jesus, and even address Him as Lord, will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven! What a surprise that will be to those who did not heed the warning of the Word of God concerning the deceptive tactics of Satan against believers in the last days!

In John 17:14-17 Jesus prays to the Father, *"I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth."*

And we would all do well to heed Paul's words to Timothy in II Tim. 4:1 5, *"I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."*

Jude 24-25, *"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."*

(All Scripture references from the NASB version)

