

Difficult Days, Part 3: The State of People  
In Great Deception  
**2 Timothy 3:6-7**

**I. Those who do not know truth will be vulnerable to deception (vs. 6-7).**

- A. They have chosen to live in sin rather than to repent and pursue truth.
- B. They are deceived from without.
- C. They are deceived from within.

(Daniel 12:1-4; Luke 22:15; Ephesians 4:17-19; Philippians 1:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12)

**II. The last days will be characterized by great deception.**

- A. People will be deceived because they are first self-deceived.
- B. People will be deceived because they will listen to false teachers.

(Daniel 8:23-25; 11:32; 9:24; 11:21-24; Matthew 7:13-15; 24:3-5; 10-11; 21-27; Revelation 6:1-2; 12:9; 13:14; 18:23; 19:20; **20:3, 7, 10**)

**Scripture References and Notes**

Revelation 12:1-17

<sup>1</sup> A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; <sup>2</sup> and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth. <sup>3</sup> Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven diadems. <sup>4</sup> And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. <sup>5</sup> And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne. <sup>6</sup> Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

<sup>7</sup> And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, <sup>8</sup> and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup> And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. <sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the

authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup> And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. <sup>12</sup> For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time.”

<sup>13</sup> And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*. <sup>14</sup> But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. <sup>15</sup> And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. <sup>16</sup> But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. <sup>17</sup> So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Genesis 3:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; <sup>3</sup> but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” <sup>4</sup> The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity *of devotion* to Christ.

1 Timothy 2:14

And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

**weak women** [γυναικάριον (gunaikarion)]

- a little woman, (contemptuously) a silly woman
- a woman, with all a woman's weakness, a poor weak woman, a silly woman.

**weighed down** [σωρεύω (sóreuó)]

- to heap on
- I heap up, load.

**impulses** [ἐπιθυμία (epithumia)]

- a great desire for something, passionate longing, lust, eagerness for.
- properly, *passion* built *on* strong feelings (urges). These can be positive or negative, depending on whether the desire is *inspired by faith* (God's inbirthed *persuasion*).

Philippians 1:23

But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the **desire** to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better...

Luke 22:15

And He said to them, “**I have earnestly** desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer...

## 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

<sup>8</sup> Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; <sup>9</sup> *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. <sup>11</sup> For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, <sup>12</sup> in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

## Ephesians 4:17-19

<sup>17</sup> So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup> being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; <sup>19</sup> and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

## Daniel 12:1-4

<sup>1</sup> “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. <sup>2</sup> Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. <sup>4</sup> But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”

“The dig at Jericho is remarkable. There have been four major excavations of the site. Let me give you some facts about the dig at Jericho. From 1907 to 1909, some archaeologists from Germany (Ernst Sellin and Carl Watzinger) excavated the site and discovered that a section of Jericho’s wall was still standing. It had houses that were still intact. They found jars of recently harvested grain (matches the “harvest time” described in Joshua 3:14-16 and the briefness of the siege in 6:15). They also found that Jericho’s mud brick walls were crumpled in a heap at the base of the retaining wall as well as an ash layer that was three foot deep. What they found matched what one would expect to find if one took the Joshua 6 account seriously.”

– *Kenneth Reiter vs. Scott Prough, 2014.*

## Matthew 24:3-5; 10-11; 21-27

<sup>3</sup> As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many.

<sup>10</sup> At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

<sup>21</sup> For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. <sup>22</sup> Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. <sup>23</sup> Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There *He is*,’ do not believe *him*. <sup>24</sup> For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> Behold, I have told you in advance. <sup>26</sup> So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, *or*, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe *them*. <sup>27</sup> For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

## Revelation 12:9

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

#### Revelation 13:14

And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who \*had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

#### Revelation 18:23

...and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.

#### Revelation 19:20

And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

#### Revelation 6:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." <sup>2</sup> I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

#### Daniel 9:24

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.

#### Daniel 11:21-24

<sup>21</sup> In his place a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue. <sup>22</sup> The overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant. <sup>23</sup> After an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small *force of people*. <sup>24</sup> In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest *parts* of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, booty and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but *only* for a time.

#### Daniel 8:23-25

<sup>23</sup> "In the latter period of their rule, When the transgressors have run *their course*, A king will arise, Insolent and skilled in intrigue. <sup>24</sup> "His power will be mighty, but not by his *own* power, And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree And prosper and perform *his will*; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people. <sup>25</sup> "And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify *himself* in his heart, And he will destroy many while *they are* at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, But he will be broken without human agency.

#### Daniel 11:32

By smooth *words* he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.

#### Matthew 7:13-15

<sup>13</sup> "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. <sup>15</sup> "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Ephesians 4:11-16

<sup>11</sup> And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.