



END-TIME DECEPTIONS

"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." (Mark 13:22)

**The End Time is filled with deception.
Deception so subtle and enchanting that even
the faithful believers would hesitate.**



❖ **The enemy:**

- ⇒ A real being.
- ⇒ The great deceiver.

❖ **His deceptions:**

- ⇒ Mortal or immortal?
- ⇒ Created or evolved?

❖ **His pretension:**

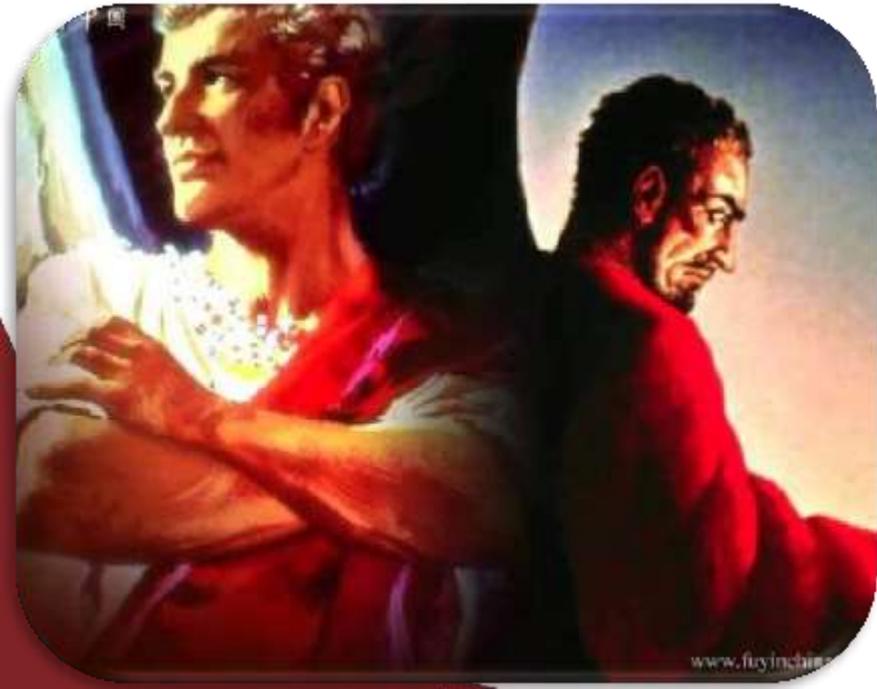
- ⇒ A counterfeit trinity.

A REAL BEING



“You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.” (Ezekiel 28:14-15 NIV)

Lucifer, Satan, the devil. Is he a real being or a myth with a trident, horns and a ridiculous appearance?



Satan has made an effort to slip by unseen. He’s tried to make everyone believe that he doesn’t actually exist.

Maybe this is the greatest deception the father of lies has conceived. We wouldn’t be prepared to counter the attacks of a “roaring lion” if we believed he doesn’t exist.

Nevertheless, the Bible explains that Lucifer was created, he rebelled, and he’ll be destroyed (Ezekiel 28:12-19). Don’t lower your guard, the enemy is real.

THE GREAT DECEIVER

"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (Revelation 12:9)

The main work of Satan before being destroyed (Revelation 20:10) is deception.



He has prepared two special deceptions for the end time: the immortality of the soul and the holiness of Sunday.



He disguised himself to deceive Eve (Genesis 3:13)



He also disguises himself to deceive us (2 Corinthians 11:14)



He can do miracles to deceive us (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)



He can deceive us with false doctrine (1 Timothy 4:1)



His deceptions reach the whole world (Revelation 12:9)



He will deceive those who will rise in the 2nd resurrection (Revelation 20:8)

MORTAL OR IMMORTAL?

"The dead do not praise the Lord, nor any who go down into silence." (Psalm 115:17)



The first lie Eve believed was "You will not surely die." (Genesis 3:4)

The Bible explains the state of the dead very clearly (Ecclesiastes 9:5-6). However, many Christians believe that the soul keeps living after death. They are accepting the lie of the enemy.

This lie has been spread by movies, books and spiritualist phenomena. But there are no "ghosts" that talk about sin, the need of salvation in Christ and the coming judgment.

The truth is that the believers will become immortal only at the Second Coming (1 Corinthians 15:53). Meanwhile, every soul is mortal (Ezekiel 8:4)



“I saw that the saints must have a thorough understanding of present truth, which they will be obliged to maintain from the Scriptures. They must understand the state of the dead; for the spirits of devils will yet appear to them, professing to be beloved relatives or friends, who will declare to them unscriptural doctrines. They will do all in their power to excite sympathy and will work miracles before them to confirm what they declare. The people of God must be prepared to withstand these spirits with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who thus appear are the spirits of devils.”

E.G.W. (Early Writings, p. 262)

CREATED OR EVOLVED?

"Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work." (Génesis 2:1-2 NIV)

The story of Creation is found in Genesis 1-3 in the Bible:

God created this world in a methodical way. He left no room for chance (1:4, 7)

All animal and plant species were created "according to their kinds". None evolved from another one (1:11, 21, 24)

Man and woman were a special creation. They were created as adults and with reason. They didn't evolve from a primate (1:27; 2:7, 20, 22)

Evolution requires death, but death is an aftermath of sin. No animal had to die for man to exist (3:19)

If we don't believe the story of Creation, we're denying the inspiration of the Bible and our need for a Savior. If death was not the result of sin, why would Jesus' salvation be necessary?



A COUNTERFEIT TRINITY

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.” (Revelation 16:13)



Satan claims to be like god (Ezekiel 28:2).

Revelation 13 introduces a false satanic trinity.



**The dragon:
the father**

- He has power and gives it to the son (v. 2)

We'll identify those powers and their relation to the End Time in coming lessons.



**The beast out of the sea:
the son**

- His ministry lasts for three and a half years (v. 5). He is fatally wounded, but he revives (v. 3)



**The beast from the earth:
the spirit**

- His goal is to lead to the son (v. 12). He does great signs and can make fire come down as at Pentecost (v. 13)

“Some will be tempted to receive these wonders as from God. The sick will be healed before us. Miracles will be performed in our sight. Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the lying wonders of Satan shall be more fully exhibited? Will not many souls be ensnared and taken? By departing from the plain precepts and commandments of God, and giving heed to fables, the minds of many are preparing to receive these lying wonders. We must all now seek to arm ourselves for the contest in which we must soon engage. Faith in God’s word, prayerfully studied and practically applied, will be our shield from Satan’s power and will bring us off conquerors through the blood of Christ.”

E.G.W. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, cp. p. 302)