

Faces of Deception

Taken from a transcript of Ronald L. Dart's radio broadcast

Almost every religious deception known to man has been introduced by warning its audience against deception. Most of them cite Revelation 12:9 which identifies the Arch Deceiver as: "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." The premise is that you have been deceived and I am here to ease your pain, to rescue you from deception, to lead you to the light. But the old Arch Deceiver might show up on my doorstep with exactly the same message.

Deception is practiced with such finesse, by so many people, accidentally and on purpose. If you are feeling sensitive come back and read this when you are feeling stronger.

A combination of Scripture, human reason and experience will be used to make my point. The reason for using Scripture is obvious. The reason for using human reason is that Vulcan logic is too advanced for this planet. Besides, God created the human mind and gave us the power to reason so that we could come to know and communicate with him. Human reason is a divine creation, just like the human eye, and is a valid means for evaluating truth. The reason for using experience is that it is less painful and expensive to learn from the experience of others.

While this is about religious deception, it is essentially the same game in politics, family, and every other field of human activity.

What can you learn about deception? What faces can you expect to see on deception?

• **Deception is like a virus.** Many people who spread it don't intend to. Satan doesn't have to do a lot of deception. All he has to do is introduce it to a willing mind and then sit back and watch it spread. Deception is like a virus in that it makes a lot of people sick and, like AIDS, they are sometimes sick a long time before they know it. They end up hurting and confusing people without meaning to. They are

accidental carriers. So was Typhoid Mary. My Scripture? "Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be

judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check" (James 3:1-2 NIV). Be careful about spreading your "knowledge" until it has been well tested. You might be a carrier of deception.

• **Deception is confusing.** It has to be, because clarity and simplicity are the mortal enemies of deception. So deception likes complicated arguments and long, convoluted doctrinal papers. Experience says that the more pages it takes to explain an idea, the more likely it is to be wrong. Scripture? "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his

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Gifts that are Doubled. . .

More than 100 companies across this nation will match a gift an employee gives to a charitable organization. Ask your Human Resources manager if they are one of them. This is an easy way to help more people hear the Gospel and come to know God without you giving a dime more. The only thing it will cost you is one question, and *Born to Win* and many people will benefit from your donation being doubled.

God Has Satan's Number

By Lennie Cacchio

Sometimes it seems like the devil has more power than God. One look at the turmoil in the world and in our lives, and you may be tempted to ask, "Where are you, Lord?"

But I am going to contend that God has Satan's number, and I am going to cite two specific examples to illustrate. The first example is from the Book of Job. Job is living his life, worshiping his God, and minding his own business when God points out Job to Satan. "Have you considered my servant Job?" It is not the devil who brings up Job's name and reputation. It's God who does so. It's almost like drawing a big, red circle around Job and putting him right in the cross hairs. Satan jumps all over it and gets permission to do some mighty sad stuff to the poor guy.

But in the end, instead of saying, "The devil made me do it," God takes full responsibility for all that happened and, through the entire process, God's will and intent is accomplished. Job grows closer to God, and Job's three friends do, too.

But an even greater example of God playing Satan is in the Gospels. In order for God's plan to be fulfilled, the Messiah would have to be murdered. If he had lived to a ripe old age and died a natural death, he could not be the Savior.

How much the devil understood about all of this, we aren't told. He certainly had some inkling of what was going on; else he would not have tempted Jesus to abandon his purpose as he had attempted (Luke 4, Matthew 4).

Yet this march to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection was inexorable, and the devil seemed to play a key role in the events as they unfolded. What appeared to be a victory for the forces of evil became the salvation of mankind. In the words of Joseph, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good. . . to save many people alive" (Genesis 50:20). That must have come as an agonizing surprise to the spirit of insanity.

I believe God works in this way more often than we know. We often don't see the end from the beginning. We see evil happening in the world and see the devil at play, and maybe we wonder why this is so. Just remember that God has greater purposes than what might seem apparent. The forces of evil were complicit in the brutal death of Jesus, but just at the moment when evil appeared to triumph; victory over death was in the hands of the saints and their God. It will be this way again. It will be like a grain of sand in the oyster of life.

October Reading Program

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| Oct 1: Luke 1; John 1:1-14 | Oct 17: Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9:1-17 |
| Oct 2: Matthew 1; Luke 2:1-38 | Oct 18: John 6 |
| Oct 3: Matthew 2; Luke 2:39-52 | Oct 19: Matthew 15; Mark 7 |
| Oct 4: Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3 | Oct 20: Matthew 16; Mark 8; Luke 9:18-27 |
| Oct 5: Matthew 4; Luke 4-5; John 1:15-51 | Oct 21: Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9:28-62 |
| Oct 6: John 2-4 | Oct 22: Matthew 18 |
| Oct 7: Mark 2 | Oct 23: John 7-8 |
| Oct 8: John 5 | Oct 24: John 9:1-10:21 |
| Oct 9: Matthew 12:1-21; Mark 3; Luke 6 | Oct 25: Luke 10-11; John 10:22-42 |
| Oct 10: Matthew 5-7 | Oct 26: Luke 12-13 |
| Oct 11: Matthew 8:1-13; Luke 7 | Oct 27: Luke 14-15 |
| Oct 12: Matthew 11 | Oct 28: Luke 16-17:10 |
| Oct 13: Matthew 12:22-50 | Oct 29: John 11 |
| Oct 14: Matthew 13; Luke 8 | Oct 30: Luke 17:11-18:14 |
| Oct 15: Matthew 8:14-34; Mark 4-5 | Oct 31: Matthew 19; Mark 10 |
| Oct 16: Matthew 9-10 | |

Games of Life

By Ron Saladin

Is life getting away from you? When I was a young teenager, a friend introduced me to coin collecting. We went to the local bank and traded our money for the bank's paper-wrapped rolls of coins which we carefully went through—picking out Indian head nickels and other desirable collectibles. Each of us began to build an impressive array of unusual pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Unfortunately, about this time our attention also began to focus on arcade pinball machines. Eventually, virtually my entire collection of coins disappeared down the slots of those machines for the thrill of buzzes, dings, and flashing lights.

Years later, home video games hit the market. I thought this was great! I could do at home for “free” what had devoured my coin collection years ago. I spent many hours racking up enormous amounts of points. My hand and eye coordination greatly improved. I began to realize however, that once again I was robbing myself of something valuable. I really had nothing worthwhile to show for the hours I spent in front of the screen. I'm not saying video games are evil, just that my priorities were out of alignment.

How about you? Do you feel that your priorities are somehow out of order? Do you sometimes feel you are wasting your time and assets on things which really won't matter much in the long run?

“The days of our years are three score and ten,” said the psalmist, “and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (Psalms 90:10). Time is precious, because we have so little of it and because there is an end to it.

There is no shortage in life of things to do. It doesn't make much difference if the game is on a video screen, in stocks and bonds, or in building a career. It is extremely easy to get caught up in a game, to put off until later any thought about the reason we are here. I recently saw a bumper sticker that said: “Many who plan to find God in the 11th hour die at 10:30.” Nobody on their deathbed ever wishes they had spent more time at the office. I remember an epitaph I chanced upon in the little country graveyard where my father is buried:

Look on me as you pass by.
For as you are now, so once was I.
As I am, you soon shall be.
Prepare for death and follow me.

It is healthy to go to a funeral once in while or at least visit a cemetery. Otherwise, when would we think about the fragility of our life? When would we ask why we are here?

When was it that you planned to give a little time to God? Or have you given the matter any thought at all? Suppose for a moment, that you cannot turn to God on your own timetable. Suppose that there is a window of opportunity for you—a window that is not always open. Jesus said, “All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out” (John 6:37 RSV). Later in the same speech, he said, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.” You do not control the time of God's invitation. You may feel that your life lacks real purpose or that your priorities of life are somehow misaligned. You may feel a real desire to know and walk with the One who created you and has a plan for your life that will dwarf your plans in comparison. If so, God is inviting you to seek him. A window of opportunity is open to you here and now.

Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33), and “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7). If you are truly seeking God, you can find him. How?

Begin by reading the Bible. Meditate on the words of Jesus Christ. A complete concordance (such as Strong's) is an inexpensive and extremely useful tool for Bible study; if you do not have one, you should obtain and learn how to use one. Counsel with others who profess Christ but verify what you are told by reading it yourself in the Bible. There is so much “smoke” in the area of religion it may seem difficult to see clearly at times. Just remember in all that smoke there is a very real fire burning. Hebrews 12:29 likens God to a consuming fire. That fire will empower the lives of those who find it, or annihilate those who reject it. It is an understatement to say truth matters to God. Persevere in seeking truth from the Word of God. Jesus said, “Seek, and ye shall find . . .”

Having said all that, allow me to point out a necessary part of what you will find. God has a plan for his children that is beyond the human mind to comprehend. “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen,

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nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). He created all things by Jesus Christ. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” (John 1:1-3 NAS). And again, speaking of Christ: “For in Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him (Colossians 1:16 NAS).

God has the right and the might to set the standards for entry into eternal life. His standard is love. To help mankind understand what love is and how it should operate in a person’s life, he gave the Law, a code of conduct which includes the Ten Commandments.

“And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him [Jesus] to the test, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And He said to him, What is written in the Law? How does it read to you? “And he answered and said, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. And He said to him, you have answered correctly, do this and you will live” (Luke 10:25-28 NAS).

In another passage, Jesus showed that obedience to the Law is not only what you do but also extends to your attitude and what you think. “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire” (Matthew 5:21-22). Another example: “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart “(Matthew 5:27-28).

Human beings begin life in the carnal state and are not able to perfectly meet the requirements of the Law. “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God”

(Romans 8:7-8).

We all fail in some way to keep God’s Laws perfectly and once the Law is violated, no amount of “good deeds” will change the penalty. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Jesus Christ is the only way to escape the sentence of death. His position as your Creator, His righteous, sinless life lived on this earth; His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection embody the only hope any person has of being reconciled with God the Father.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

Jesus Christ paid the penalty for your sins. Because of him you can be forgiven and receive the Holy Spirit of God. You can begin a fascinating growth experience that will reprioritize your life. You can begin to experience the Law of God as something that no longer condemns you but leads you to a deeper understanding of what love is.

“And Peter said to them, Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself (Acts 2:38-39 NAS).

You don’t need a degree in theology to begin this new life. A humble, obedient attitude before God and a short conversation in your own words will suffice. Tell him you realize you have sinned, fallen short of what he requires. Tell him you are ready to put away your will and trust him to lead. Tell him you need, want, and accept Jesus Christ as your Savior. Quit wasting your time and assets on the games of life with their enticing sounds and flashing lights.

Hear the Gospel: “At that time Jesus declared, I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father, for such was thy gracious will. All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light “ (Matthew 11:25-30 RSV).

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subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:3.) Easy isn’t it? I’ll bet you could have thought of that one yourself. A feeling of confusion is an almost infallible sign that you are in the presence of deception. The reason for this is simple. We grow up conditioned to believe that in most circumstances of life, people tell the truth. When they lie to us, we feel confused. You may not need a lie detector. You may be one.

• **Deception is a swindler.** There is an old saying that you can’t cheat an honest man. For the swindle to work, it has to appeal to some desire you probably shouldn’t have. A man who wants a divorce so he can take off with his new young cutie is a sitting duck for a long, involved paper on divorce and remarriage that makes it okay. Then he will be a missionary for the new idea. This is how people become carriers. They feel a need to justify a life decision and the more people they convince, the more secure they are in their “belief.” But you should know something about carriers. The longer and louder they preach their pet idea, the more insecure they are about it. Keep in mind that deception has to be maintained or it will dissolve into painful truth. The way to maintain it is to convince other people that the idea is true. If others believe it, then it must be true. People who are pathological in their advocacy of special doctrine are people who are deathly afraid it may turn out to be wrong.

• **Deception goes around in circles.** Once again, it must go around in circles, because the objective of deception is to prevent progress. If you make progress, even in the wrong direction, you will wake up some day and realize you are some place you didn’t really want to go. At that point the deception is defeated because you can repent and go where you were supposed to go in the first place. This is why many theological arguments plow the same ground over and over again. It is busy work, like digging a hole and filling it up again. You have better things to.

• **Deception fights for survival.** It will do whatever it has to do to keep from being defeated. It will manufacture sources, spin facts, appear to be falsehoods. It will selectively include and delete information. It will lie. It has to, because once found out, it is dead.

• **Deception is fond of non-provable assertions.** This goes without saying, because if you can prove it, the deception is over. Suppose, for example it wants to undermine the credibility of an opponent. Deception can spread the rumor that he is a practicing Mason (assuming that the audience cares about that). Now if a man is a Mason, he could easily prove it, but how does he prove he is not a Mason? Deception loves this kind of allegation. It is the meat and potatoes of every conspiracy theory. A man who is one of the strongest advocates of sincere Sabbath observance in the world has been accused of being a Jesuit spy in the Sabbatarian movement. When you are through laughing, think it over. How can he prove his innocence? Deception loves this sort of thing, because it can keep the opposition tied up indefinitely. Remember: Some things don’t have to be proved.

• **Deception imputes motives.** Deception is fond of the ad hominem attack, and will actively discredit anyone who had the nerve to point out that the King has no clothes on. It really doesn’t matter if a man is a Jesuit spy if his research checks out. “Search the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so.” Just because a theologian is a Protestant, Catholic or wears pink underwear does not mean his research is flawed. My Scripture: “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20).

• **Deception loves to quote Scripture** (see Matthew 4:6). Any deceiver who cannot find some Scriptures that say what he wants them to say isn’t worth his salt. For deception, the more Scripture the better. When I see a long list of Scriptures in an argument, I ignore the list. To me it is a sign of someone who has nothing to say. (I told you not to read this far if you were feeling sensitive.) People who take proof texts out of context and string them together to make a point are immediate suspects. I prefer to read Scriptures in a leather binding and in context. You should do the same.

• **Deception is condescending.** Any time you are talking to someone who assumes you are inferior in spirituality, attitude, holiness or practice; you are probably talking to a deceiver. Not a first-line deceiver, though. A carrier. One who has been deceived, who thinks he knows more than he does and sets out to spread the virus. A first-line deceiver is too smooth to

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be condescending. He wants you to feel good about yourself. A first-line deceiver is often a flatterer. Only the second string carrier is condescending. It is a dead giveaway when they tell you that you are deceived.

- **Deception loves to preach and pontificate.** It likes a soap box. This is also typical of the carrier, not the first-line deceiver. The first-line deceiver is more subtle. He lets his carriers do the preaching.

- **Deception is common. It is not rare.** It is not somewhere else. You've probably run into it every day. Entertain yourself by watching for it. Hang labels on it for easy identification. Deception hates labels because they mean the jig is up. To be labeled is to be found

Why the Festivals?

Taken from a Ronald L. Dart Letter

The Feast is upon us. We'll deeply regret it if we don't have the pleasure of seeing you at this year's Feast. If you don't join us, you will be terribly missed. For some it is too far and too costly to travel here. Yet, the CEM Feast is planned to be more affordable than most. Others have family commitments and responsibilities elsewhere for the feast. We will be praying for you as you travel and meet together to worship the Father at His "appointed time." Jesus promised that wherever two or three are gathered in His name, He will be there. We will be counting on that promise this year as always.

For years those in our tradition have taught that the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the millennium. I challenge you to search the Scriptures and find that. The festivals of the Bible are much richer in meaning than we have ever imagined. There are at least five layers of meaning in the festivals, depending on how you explain them.

1. The Jewish historical meaning. (The Exodus, the wilderness wandering, the giving of the law).
- 2 The eschatological meaning (i.e. prophetic, end time).
3. The Christological meaning. (Picturing Christ and his ministry).
4. The soteriological meaning (The plan of salvation).

out. Don't label people, only deception. I was thrilled when I discovered and named "Radical Anti-Paganism" (RAP). Someone was critical because they thought I was labeling people. Not so. I was naming an "ism." RAP is, roughly, a belief that anything pagans ever did is wrong. I don't want to know that, because for all I know, the pagans invented breakfast.

Only 12 faces of deception are laid out in this article. But there are 20 in the *FREE* CD titled *Understanding Deception*. To get a full understanding of this most important subject, you need to hear and study all 20 of these faces. They can improve your understanding and make a huge difference in your relationship with your Creator. Call today 1-888-BIBLE-44 and order a CD of *Understanding Deception*.

5. The temporal meaning (How they apply to our lives today).

Most Christian churches dismiss the festivals as "Jewish," as being only historical in meaning and applying only to Israel. Their arguments and our arguments in reply, have been limited to proof texts about the supposed abolition of part or all of the Law of God. When you give this a more in-depth study, you will come face to face with Christ in every biblical festival. Then the ground of the entire argument changes. The proper approach to a dialogue with other faiths on the festivals lies in their Christian symbolism. And if these churches observed these days, they would understand Jesus and his work far better than they do.

There is so much to learn about these appointed times—these holy days. To learn more call our office, 1-888-Bible-44, or go to our website, www.borntowin.net and ask about Mr. Dart's book, *The Thread: God's Appointments with History*.

Born to Win

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*That the man of God may be proficient and
equipped for every good work.*