

COURSE 601

DECEIVED



**Section 1:
Deception Averted**



כתונה

The above Hebrew word, taken from the picture in Section 1 says ketubah. A Ketubah is a marriage contract





Introduction

“Pilate said unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and said unto them, I find in him no fault at all.”

John 18:38

DECEIVED, A STATE OF BEING most people prefer to avoid, ignores all social protocol and comes a courting. Its root, deception, knocks with a gentle sound at a person’s door, and innocently smiles at its intended victims. Bit by bit, one inch at a time, it draws its victims into its snare. Then, as its unsuspecting victims let down their guard and willingly receive it, deception enters to further spin its web of deceit.

Whether it is mental, emotional or spiritual invasion, deception cares not. It works to penetrate every area of its victims’ life. Deception’s major goal aims to control, manipulate and coerce its victims to keep them trapped within its grasp. Active, cruel, insanely possessive and deadly, are but a few words to describe deception and its behaviour towards its victims.

Most of us know deception exists but prefer we never encounter it. Unfortunately, knowing it exists only *partially* prepares us to avoid it. To overcome any form of deception, we need a proactive approach. That is true in every facet of the world around us, including the field of faith. In fact, Yeshua warned His disciples of deception:

Mark 13:22-23

“For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.”

Yeshua’s warning, “*take heed*”, indicated that Yeshua required His disciples to pay attention to the coming deception before His return. Therefore, believers must be alert for false Messiah’s. In other words, people present themselves as being the answer or having all the answers. In their presentation, they become so convincing, that, if it were possible, they would *seduce* even the very elect.

Note the word “*seduce*”. To seduce refers to the disarming of one’s defences. It suggests an attempt to lower the protective wall of the very elect, (*believers in the kingdom of God*). To put it another way, deception attempts to neutralise one’s objections. It tricks people into accepting a new reality, one which seems good but hidden beneath the surface lay a devious

and hidden agenda. Deception, like an adulterer, persuades another to unite with its agenda. With logic, or in some cases with lying signs and wonders, it strategizes to pull believers off course.

No believer can afford to disregard deception's existence nor its attempts to thwart their walk with God. Rather, wisdom teaches believers to be on guard to recognize deception's lies and likewise, to employ a defensive mindset to ensure freedom from deception's deadly snare.

DECEPTION PREVENTION

Before discussing some practical examples, let us look at a simple analogy. Consider how banks train tellers to recognize counterfeit bills. Surprisingly enough, they do not bring the tellers counterfeit bills to study. These are too numerous to examine. Additionally, counterfeiters continue to invent new and improved methods to fool the unsuspecting eye. Therefore, the best line of defence in recognizing the counterfeit lies in knowing the original.

As bankers examine the original, they put their senses of sight and touch to work. With touch, they feel the texture of the printing on the bill. Counterfeits feel different than the original.

Next, using their eyes, they check for a watermark or other things on specific bills which only appear on the original. Depending on the bill, they might tilt it to see if certain numbers or characters change in the light just as they were designed to do. On other bills they look for fine-line printing and tiny text to ensure they are neither blurred nor missing. While this task seems rather simple, this method produces enough evidence (**facts**) to detect counterfeit (**fake**) currency.



Using this same principle of knowing the original works well, too, in identifying other forms of deception. After all, counterfeits of original things appear everywhere and, on every front, challenging one to question the difference between the real and the fake. Even from ancient times, people, confused by counterfeit leaders, sought for the original, including in the time of Yeshua.

During the trial of Yeshua, for example, the Roman governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate, asked Yeshua this question:

“What is truth?”

Yeshua’s earlier remarks to Pilate no doubt sparked that question when He said,

John 18:37

“Pilate therefore said unto him, Are you a king then? Jesus answered, you say that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth hears my voice.”

Pilate, just like every other person, had his questions what does or does not constitute truth. Yet, in this historic scene familiar to Christians, we understand by God’s divine Word that the true King of Israel stood before Pilate.

John 1:49

“Nathanael answered and said unto him, Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.”

To take it one revelation further, Truth, Himself, stood before Pilate!

John 14:6

“Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me.”

In the case with Pilate, he saw, talked with, and judged Truth, but the man knew it not! Deception held him in its grip.

Today like Pilate, many people fail to recognize Yeshua as truth because deception acts just like it did in years gone by. It sets its sights on every person no matter their age or station in life. Deception tosses its

invisible veil of unbelief on all unsuspecting people. Indeed, deception reaches out its grip on every front, especially targeting the ones hungering for truth. Fortunately, scripture provides us with the answer to finding truth:

Jeremiah 29:13

“And you shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart.”

Here, then, stands the promise of God for all who pursue Him. Here lies the reality of discovering truth and walking in it!

One must seek God (Who is Truth) with all their heart.

In other words, if we want to know God and walk in a life of truth, its door stands ready to open to all who seek God ***with every aspect of their being***. In doing so, our searching for truth ends with a true, fruit bearing encounter with God.

However, we cannot stop there!

Our walk with God brings forth deep truth in every area of our life, and thus our pursuit of truth never ends. Rather, as we walk through the open door to truth, we enjoin ourselves to truth and thus walk through this life, hand in hand with Him.

Nevertheless, we must still be on guard for deception, especially as we near the time of Messiah's return.

Therefore, let us link arm in arm with the solution to deception. Let us persist in seeking God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, vigorously preparing for coming deception's traps that might arise.



Let us learn well the facts that scripture presents and in doing so, become fortified against anything false (fake).

Additionally, as each believer shares those solid scriptural concepts (facts) with others, it presents a broader field of defence for all who care to listen. To truly understand the truth, therefore, let us take a lesson from the bank teller's training. In doing so, let us investigate and study aspects of the original from all sides. In that way we fortify ourselves.

ANOTHER ANALOGY

Throughout the first and second covenants, scripture presents an analogy of God, the Father, as well as Yeshua, the Son, as the bridegroom and the body of believers as the bride. In both covenants, scripture addresses the bride's unfaithfulness to her husband.

Under the first covenant, we hear of times when Israel's unfaithfulness to covenant grieved the

husband's heart¹. Unfortunately, it was not a onetime occurrence, either. Eventually, due to a constant, continual betrayal, the Bible speaks of God's intentions to divorce Israel for her adultery². Fortunately, with God's mercy in place, in a promised future time, Israel, repents and returns to God.

Within the second covenant, scriptures address the unfaithfulness of the bride to the groom, many of which we find in passages within the book of Revelation. In Yeshua's address to the seven churches, we hear about operative practices or teachings³ which broke covenant with God and offended Him.

GOAL OF THIS BOOK

Having discussed the reality of deception in this introduction, including Yeshua's warning of deception's increase in the times preceding His return, it becomes the objective of this book to bring to the front biblical warning regarding deception, its tactics and devices.

¹ Hence the explanation of the cover photo showing a husband grieving over his wife who broke covenant with him.

² *Jeremiah 3:1 "They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but you have played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, said YeHoVaH."*

³ *Revelation 2:20 "Notwithstanding I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."*

Surprisingly enough, as we study this topic together, we will see that deception emerges in various ways to deceive the unaware. It might wear a different face, dress itself in a changed garment, but it is the same deception. Or, at times, when deception becomes overconfident, it may well present itself in the same form as it did in the past, even using its former name⁴!

To discover deception's deceiving tactics, as we journey together through this book, we examine examples of deception revealed in scripture. Since deception causes great pain to those snared in its grasp, by looking at the many patterns of deception outlined in scripture, one develops a sharp discernment and thus obtains an edge on recognizing the counterfeit. As we see those examples or patterns of the counterfeit, we better tune our ears to receive scripture's warnings as these patterns convey facts very applicable to today.

Within Section 1 entitled, *Deception Averted*, in chapters one and two, readers examine a positive pattern of God's presence in the midst of His people. This pattern serves as an example showing what God requires of believers, as well as what benefits them. In Section 2,

⁴ For example, the teachings of Baalim in *Revelation 2:14*. "But I have a few things against you, because you have there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication."

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How Errors in a Faith System Affect Both God & His People

we look at *Deception Patterns*. Here, readers explore situations that God recorded to give His people knowledge of the practises of deception. Finally, in Section 3, *Deception Defeated*, we can rejoice together as we see how God empowers believers to overcome deception.

Prepare yourself for a short journey into the scriptures to discover some positive realities about the God of the Bible, as well as many things that the Bible reveals regarding the deadly tactics of deception.

Dear reader, may YeHoVaH, the God of all heaven and earth, grant insight into His Word. May He open the depths of His heavenly wisdom to give you understanding and clarity as you peer into the topic of deception.

May we all embrace the lessons here, so none become

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May each person discover the truth regarding

*How errors in a faith system affect
both God and His people.*

1



A Chosen Covenant

“For you are a holy people unto YeHoVaH, your Elohim, YeHoVaH, your Elohim has chosen you to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.”

Deuteronomy 7:6

TO EXAMINE THE ORIGINAL pattern showing God’s presence in our midst, we begin by looking at the best example of this topic given in scripture. That example comes forward at the same time as the birth of the nation of Israel⁵. At that time as God chose Israel to be His special nation, He bound them to Him through a wedding like contract called a *ketubah*. This legal binding agreement, classified as a covenant, contained within it, promises unique to the individual partners of the marriage; things they promise to each other. It also included penalties which automatically came into effect if any party failed to meet the terms of the agreement.

⁵ Jacob’s descendants.

Exodus 34:10

“And he said, Behold, I make a covenant: before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which you live shall see the work of YeHoVaH: for it [is] a terrible⁶ thing that I will do with you.”

Regarding the terms of that covenant between God and His people, scripture clearly outlined God’s part and Israel’s, too. This covenant solidified, first, the immediate generation of Israel, (*the fathers*), of the covenant and then, included the generations to come. We see this as God specifically commanded Israel to teach their children the terms of the covenant, thus making it span from generation to generation.

1 Chronicles 16:15-17

“Be you mindful always of his covenant; the word [which] he commanded to a thousand generations; [Even of the covenant] which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac; And has confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, [and] to Israel [for] an everlasting <5769>” covenant,

⁶ Old English word meaning awesome.

In Hebrew, the word for everlasting⁷ is עולם, (Olam). עולם (Olam) means continuous existence, perpetual, or for a very long time. Looking deeper into its meaning, it shows something hidden or concealed. Its literal translation means *beyond the horizon*⁸, therefore, suggesting that as long as a horizon exists, the covenant continues.

Looking at the word עולם (Olam), then, we easily recognize that the timeframe of the covenant YeHoVaH made with Israel, He intended to span way past the first generation. In other words, עולם, (Olam) implies the length of time of the covenant agreement between YeHoVaH and His people goes beyond the horizon.

This timeframe we see reaffirmed in other scriptures such as in 1 Chronicles 16:15. It states: *to a thousand generations, which presents the same idea as the word Olam, implying a long time.* Then in 1 Chronicles 16:17 He uses the word עולם, (Olam) again, meaning, beyond the horizon, or until no more tomorrows come. All of this indicates a very long time.

⁷ Strong's Concordance # 5769 does not include the vav as does the Ancient Hebrew Research Centre.

⁸ Ancient Hebrew Research Centre <https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/definition/eternity.htm>

Regarding the other terms of the covenant, YeHoVaH clearly defined them. Those covenant terms YeHoVaH presented to His people through Moses as His mediator at the base of Mt. Sinai in Arabia, *after* YeHoVaH brought them out of Egypt.

Let us look at the terms of the ketubah (wedding covenant) which Moses mediated.

HUSBAND:

YeHoVaH's VOWS

Exodus 19:5-6

"Now therefore, if you will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure <5459 סְגֻלָּה cēgullah > unto me above all people: for all the earth is my: And you shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation."

Here, YeHoVaH calls the people His cegullah, a unique and endearing term. Cegullah means something rare, treasured, and out of the ordinary like a rare jewel. Like a solitaire in a ring, Israel stood out, apart from the other nations upon the earth. Calling Israel YeHoVaH's cegullah meant that, *in His eyes*, Israel as His wife, was a precious treasure, rare and unique. Furthermore, in using that word, cegullah, YeHoVaH promised to treasure Israel, drawing her close, as a husband draws his bride near to him. Moreover, YeHoVaH promised in this ketubah (wedding contract), to keep Himself for His

bride alone, and she *in turn* must keep herself for Him alone.

Moses acts as the mediator or the negotiator of this covenant. First, he speaks with YeHoVaH, (the groom). Then, having received the groom's requirements regarding the bride, Moses relates those exact terms to Israel, the bride, to get her response.

BRIDE:

ISRAEL'S VOWS

Exodus 19:7-8

"And Moses came and called for the elders of the people and laid before their faces all these words which YeHoVaH commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, all that YeHoVaH has spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto YeHoVaH."

Moses collects Israel's leaders together as these are the legal spokesmen for the nation. He relates YeHoVaH's requirements of the bride (Israel). Then, he receives their response to the proposal. Next, still acting as mediator, Moses returns to YeHoVaH with Israel's (the bride's) response, which was agreeable.

After YeHoVaH receives an affirmative response, He tells Moses to ready the people. He is going to come down and speak to them directly, but His coming requires certain preparations. Moses conveys the conditions and

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ensures the people get ready, prepared just as YeHoVaH required. Then, on the third day as promised, YeHoVaH appears in a thick cloud on the mountain top, accompanied by loud thunder cracks and lightning as well as blaring shofars (trumpets).

In this scene of YeHoVaH's powerful entrance, He speaks very specific covenant terms to Israel, what we later called the ten commandments. However, YeHoVaH's voice was so piercing that they thought they would all die. Terrified by His voice, the Israelites demanded YeHoVaH stop speaking directly to them.

Exodus 20:18-19

"And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightning, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, speak you with us, and we will hear but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

Fortunately, their initial rejection of this direct encounter with YeHoVaH did not deter the acceptance of the covenant. In His mercy, YeHoVaH provided a further opportunity for Israel to seal the covenant with Him.

YeHoVaH calls Moses and relates to him the covenant terms. Moses then writes them in a book and presents the book to the people. They listen to Moses reading it and then agree to those terms.

Exodus 24:3

“And Moses came and told the people all the words of YeHoVaH, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which YeHoVaH has said will we do.”

Next, a blood covenant solidified or sealed the contract.

Exodus 24:4-8

“And Moses wrote all the words of YeHoVaH, and rose up early in the morning, and built an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto YeHoVaH. And Moses took half of the blood and put [it] in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that YeHoVaH has said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled [it] on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which YeHoVaH has made with you concerning all these words.”

Next, YeHoVaH allowed an entourage of people to come near Him. Together they ate the covenant meal.

How Errors in a Faith System Affect Both God & His People

Exodus 24:9-11

“Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also, they saw God, and did eat and drink.”

From that point onward, the ketubah (the covenant) became the backbone of the relationship between the two partners, **YeHoVaH and Israel**.

Then, YeHoVaH set in place a safeguard to ensure the covenant passed on to the generations:

Exodus 24:12

Come up to me into the mount and be there: and I will give you tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that you may teach them.”

YeHoVaH ensured that Israel as His bride had all she needed. As she walked with Him, in her hands she retained tables of stone⁹, the Torah (or instructions), and commandments of YeHoVaH.

While this gave Israel ample information to faithfully serve Him, unfortunately, Israel yielded to a temptation

⁹ These Moses broke later, but God restored them to him.

which veered her from her promised exclusivity of serving YeHoVaH. This happened right at the get-go.

Deuteronomy 9:11-12

“And it came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights, that YeHoVaH gave me the two tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant. And YeHoVaH said unto me, Arise, get you down quickly from here; for your people which you have brought forth out of Egypt have corrupted themselves; they are quickly turned aside out of the way which I commanded them; they have made them a molten image.”

As Deuteronomy states, Israel corrupted themselves. She made a golden image and worshipped it. In doing so, she broke her covenant commitment to keep herself for YeHoVaH and YeHoVaH alone. In modern terms, when Israel engaged in idolatry, she broke the terms of the ketubah (marriage covenant) and thus, as a result of her unfaithfulness, Israel committed adultery.

Moses, told by YeHoVaH to go down to the people at the base of the mountain, obeys. On his return to the camp, when he sees Israel engaged in the worship of the molten image, he reacts quickly. Immediately, he throws to the ground the two tables of stone written with YeHoVaH's finger, thus breaking them into pieces. This action, although unexpected, prophetically demonstrated to YeHoVaH's people their inability to keep YeHoVaH's commandments.

Deuteronomy 9:15-19

“So, I turned and came down from the mount, and the mount burned with fire: and the two tables of the covenant were in my two hands. And I looked, and behold, you had sinned against YeHoVaH your God and had made you a molten calf: you had turned aside quickly out of the way which YeHoVaH had commanded you. And I took the two tables, and cast them out of my two hands, and brake them before your eyes. And I fell down before YeHoVaH, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which you sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of YeHoVaH, to provoke him to anger. For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure, wherewith YeHoVaH was wroth against you to destroy you. But YeHoVaH hearkened unto me at that time also.”

Israel's actions in breaking her covenant with YeHoVaH put her in danger of being destroyed. A death penalty existed for adultery as well as for a broken blood covenant¹⁰ and the offended party, in this case, YeHoVaH, could demand it. After that scene, Moses rebukes the children of Israel, then returns to the mount.

¹⁰ In ancient times, any person(s) who made a blood covenant, in cutting the covenant understood that to break the terms of the covenant gave the other(s) member of the covenant agreement the right to kill the ones who broke covenant.

There, Moses fasts forty days and nights before YeHoVaH and intercedes for Israel, also.

YeHoVaH heeds Moses and spares the people the death penalty. Furthermore, YeHoVaH blesses Israel by giving her a sacrificial system, which presented within its pattern, an opportunity to atone for sin. Additionally, while this pattern presents a duplicate of heaven's temple¹¹, its prophetic picture presents the perfect pattern on how to meet with YeHoVaH and continuously walk with Him. In other words, its pattern prophetically presents God's plan of salvation through Yeshua. In short, its prophetic message within its pattern, *which we call the Mosaic Tabernacle*¹², showed the only way to life with God is an encounter with Yeshua.

Before leaving this chapter let us summarize *the basics* of what we discussed thus far. YeHoVaH, in His infinite wisdom and love, gave to Israel:

¹¹ "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, [after] the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall you make [it]." Exodus 25:8-9.

¹² This perfect pattern as seen in the Mosaic Tabernacle we will quickly review in the next chapter.

How Errors in a Faith System Affect Both God & His People

- ***A Blood Covenant*** with YeHoVaH comprised of conditions to keep God as their only God, and Israel as God's Covenant people.
- ***A Code of Behaviour*** outlining YeHoVaH's requirements of Israel, as well as what He would do for Israel, as they obeyed or disobeyed Him.
- ***A Penalty of Death*** when breaking the covenant.
- ***A Sin Offering to make atonement*** for breaking the covenant, so they could live and not die.
- ***A Unique tabernacle*** which spoke prophetically of God in their midst with salvation and the coming Messiah depicted within.

Remember, as God presented this chosen covenant to Israel, it was faultless. However, it had a weakness which did not stem on the side of God, but rather on the side of humankind.

Romans 8:3

*"For what the law could not do, in that **it was weak through the flesh**, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:"*

As we think of this chosen covenant let us remember it was perfect as God gave it. Its only fault was that its people, apart from God's help, could not perfectly keep it.