

### God's Tool of Deception – Part I

**Intro:** Just a reminder that we are looking at practical applications from the book of Revelation that we can apply to our lives in this dispensation. This book is a practical book meant to speak to the Tribulation dwellers about the character of the world they are going to find themselves in. The truths contained for them are the same truths we have for this world this side of the Rapture. If the truths will work for them then, then we can use many of the same truths when we are facing hard and harsh times in our lives. The Tribulation dwellers have rejected the very truths of the Bible presently, however, during the Tribulation many are going to take a new look at the Old Book and that which they once rejected is now their last opportunity to escape hell.

Sin is sin, temptation is temptation and trial are trials regardless of the day and age in which they take place. We have the same God; we have the same enemy and the solutions still have the same answers on either side of the Rapture. Our goal in going through this book is to walk away with some \_\_\_\_\_ helps for our lives. What works now will work following the Rapture and what takes place after the Rapture requires the same solutions in order to experience the same victory in Christ.

Once we move beyond chapter four of Revelation's, we can \_\_\_\_\_ and try to come up with answers that God has not revealed. Who is the anti-Christ? How will the mark of the anti-Christ be applied? And so many other mysteries, but the truth be told, none of the speculations offered helps us much this side of the Rapture. God has commanded us to study (II Timothy 2:15) not to \_\_\_\_\_, therefore we need to keep prophecy in perspective as Revelation's deals with a small period of human interaction with time.

One of the biggest questions that plagues man is who are these four horsemen of Revelation chapter six? They are God's divine \_\_\_\_\_ that He is going to send upon mankind in the Tribulation which is the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_. We have seen of late, not that, scams and scammers haven't been around from the Garden of Eden, but of late our computers, our cellphones and even land lines are used to bilk millions, if not millions, billions of dollars every year. So, what does this have to do with Revelation chapter six? In the first part of chapter six, we see a white horse upon which sets a rider with a bow and a crown was given to him. While some mistakenly take this rider to be the person of Christ, it is not so! Christ comes at the end of the Tribulation not at the beginning. This is anti-Christ having in hand a bow but no arrows. What this means is that anti-Christ will not take \_\_\_\_\_ of earth by force, rather he will use \_\_\_\_\_.

His \_\_\_\_\_ will be lies and deceptions, remember Jesus' apt description of Satan in John 8:44, he will make treaties around the world and when it is convenient for him to do so, he will break them. So, another big question is, "Why would God allow people to be deceived in the first place?" Why does God allow

deception to be a part of His will? (II Corinthians 11:13 & 14; II John 1:7.) This deception didn't just start with the anti-Christ. It began with Satan in his revolt against God and heaven and spilled into Eden. (Gen. 3:1 - 6).

The fact that he is so successful is because he is good at evil, a master deceiver who has been filling hell for over 6,000 years by deceiving people. (II Corinthians 4:4) And so to answer the question, why does God allow this deception? We will answer this from the Bible with six points.

### God allows deception to:

#### I. \_\_\_\_\_ us – Genesis 31:4 – 7.

A. Jacob knew he was reaping what he had \_\_\_\_\_ earlier.

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ his father Isaac concerning the blessing of the first born.
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ his brother Ishmael out of the blessing that was his.
3. He had to live with his troubling conscience and \_\_\_\_\_ he is being deceived by his father-in-law.

B. So to answer why? God allowed Jacob to be deceived in order to \_\_\_\_\_ him.

1. God allows deception to take place whenever He deems best, according to His divine wisdom, using what is most \_\_\_\_\_ in drawing us back and closer to Him.
2. God allows us to be deceived to \_\_\_\_\_ us closer to Him. If we aren't in the Word of God, how will we know if our daily walk is pleasing to God. Thus, we walk in ignorance if we aren't!
3. When we are walking \_\_\_\_\_ to God, we will have insight few others have, and we are not easily deceived if at all.
4. You and I may be \_\_\_\_\_ with our walk, however, is God pleased? (Galatians 6:7)
5. How would we know if our walk was pleasing to God?
  - a. First of all, it would \_\_\_\_\_ the walk Christ walked.
  - b. It would \_\_\_\_\_ the biblical narrative of God's faithful, Hebrews 11:1 – 33.

C. Today's churches are facing an \_\_\_\_\_ crisis of honesty. (Pulpits to the pews)

1. We are becoming altogether too comfortable with dishonesty and lying.
2. It is getting difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ people anymore and take them at their word!
3. We borrow too much, more than we can reasonably pay back and when we know we can't, we are being dishonest.
4. Lying certainly isn't a Christ-like characteristic and yet many professing Believers do it.
5. Deception also follows hard on the heels of meaning well, but not being able to follow through.
6. Promising more than one can deliver or cutting corners on jobs for others is deception.
7. God is never pleased with underhandedness while truth and honesty \_\_\_\_\_ Him well.

**(Micah 6:8)**