

Slide 3 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 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. (Rev 12:7-9)

How does Satan deceive the whole world? We know how slick he was in the garden of Eden. He saw Eve was already attracted to the fruit so he nudged her over the edge and, voila! 6000 years of sin. That particular deception was just one method. When people decide to be deceptive, there are many, many ways to go about it. The truth is almost always black and white. Sometimes it takes a while to get to the truth because of context, language barriers, education level, etc, but in the end, the truth is almost always black and white. Deception can be pretty easy, though, and take many forms. Let's take a look at an example:

Slide 4 "So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, 'Take provisions in your hand for the journey, and go to meet them and say to them, We are your servants; now then, make a covenant with us. This our bread was warm when we took it for our provisions out of our houses on the day that we left to come to you; but now behold, it is dry and has become crumbled. These wineskins which we filled were new, and behold, they are torn; and these our clothes and our sandals are worn out because of the very long journey. So the men of Israel took some of their provisions, and did not ask for the counsel of YHVH. Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live; and the leaders of the congregation swore an oath to them. It came about at the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were neighbors and that they were living within their land.'" (Jos 9:11-16)

In this case, the Gibeonites figured out what Israel was doing. That they were annihilating the inhabitants of the land. These guys didn't want to move and knew they couldn't win, so they hatched a plan to deceive. This was a straightforward ploy and it worked. The Israelites took the guys at their word, didn't consult YHVH, and got hoodwinked. We are on guard for this type of ploy all the time. If I won or inherited money today, I would likely not receive it because I'd think it a scam. I have missed important phone calls because I didn't know the number just to be safe. We have terms and conditions and all sorts of laws to try and stop this type of deceit. In fact, medical providers called me incessantly two weeks ago about my dad and I had to research the companies extensively before calling back. To the point of talking to his insurance company to make sure these folks were legitimate. Because one wrong move and I could cost my dad his Medicare. Today, scams like the Gibeonites are around every corner.

Slide 5 "For false Messiahs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead (deceive), if possible, even the elect." (Mat 24:24)

When referencing verses like this, we are assuming a somewhat level playing field. We are thinking the deceptions to come are going to be identifiable and that the elect are going to be educated enough to figure it out. But what if the playing field isn't level at all? What if something else is going on? We see enormous scams today executed against wealthy, connected, and educated people who have staff to evaluate deals.

Slide 6 KGB video

In the case of the Gibeonites, they had to quickly launch a plan to deceive Israel on a pretty level playing field. They could have been found out rather easily. They could have asked YHWH or somebody could have followed them home. Israel was new to the land so they were pretty easy marks, but a little effort could have shown them the light. In the case of modern scammers, which abound, they have resources, shell companies, and the like in order to trick people out of money. They are sophisticated to the extreme. Think about the young guy who scammed stars out of hundreds of millions of dollars recently through a phony currency business. He literally scammed investors who are trained and experienced in identifying deals.

In the case of the USSR, you had an entire superpower devoted to deceiving others. They had schools to teach this. They introduced deception and then measured results. It was a science for them. They had a history of toppling countries using this method. They had large budgets of money available to do this to people. They had a plan, enacted it, and bragged about it. In this case, how much success could you have to fend off this deception?

This former KGB guy says it takes 15 years for ideological subversion to occur. This amount of time is required to confuse the populace *through the education system*. They introduced deception at the floor level so people would be raised flawed. The goal of this treachery was to get a society to a point where enough people can't tell truth from fiction that it causes internal instability. Friends, he said this was completed in 1980. We're 40 years down the road from there. The first subverted generation is now in their 60s. We have generations of people teaching other generations with these cancers running through our systems. He explains that a person who is subverted is unable to process true information. Facts don't matter. What happens if the majority of the population can't process true information? What happens if only 1/3 of the society can't identify truth but 2/3 can? Constant friction, that's what.

Satan has had nearly 6K years to perfect his deception craft. With 1/3 of the angels at his disposal. The Soviets achieved an incredible level of deception inside of 100 years. What we are up against here is incredibly diabolical. And in our case, the deception is not for wealth or political power. It's for our very souls. Satan's deception is meant to trick us into worshiping him or, at a bare minimum, not worshiping YHVH.

What if the elect are the few people who are simply able to tell right from wrong? We have a precedent for that with the good thief on the cross. He obtained salvation by simply acknowledging injustice right before he died. Whether that identifies one as the elect or now, it sure is a component. Here in the end of days, how do we see deception being fomented? Frankly, most of it is at a fundamental level. At the foundation.

The book Atlas shrugged is a fictional work that chronicled what would happen to the United State if it went communist. It's written by a lady who was a citizen of the USSR and got out. In the book, which is not a religious book by any means, there's a recurring phrase: check your premises. In the book, this meant if a person saw something clearly, or something developed that was contrary to what you were taught, or some large and important piece of information you held dear turned out to be wrong, then the person needed to change. The problem was not the material, event, doctrine, and such. The problem was the person's inability to recognize truth. When we get into this walk of trying to get back to first century Christianity, the largest problem we often face is our own perceptions and conditioning. We haven't just been taught things that simply aren't true, we been conditioned to learn and evaluate information in a manner that differs from first century Jews, who are the authors of the New Testament. We also often have misconceptions about our own western processes regarding how research is conducted and what constitutes authoritative teachings. We need to check our premises often.

This is where we are today. Every idea is given equal weight even though they may be absurd because society has been miseducated and because of how the internet works. The core of this was done to us on purpose by both the USSR and Satan. Both the evil empire and the prince of darkness want to sew discord. Let's do some basic education stuff now. Set some baselines. Set some expectations. Because while we in this group do have a handle on reality, we still need to refresh. And perhaps consider our studies in a different fashion.

Slide 6 Make slide social science on one side, pure science on the other

Setting expectations here. Theology is a social science. The faith once delivered is not something that can be completely quantified. We're not working with transistors that can be forward biased or Boolean algebra strings that react exactly the same way each time. Anthropology, history,

archaeology, and the like all provide pieces of information that we then compile and reference against the Bible to come up with groupings and conclusions. Absolute truth does exist within social sciences, it's just the overall grouping is broad. The 10 commandments are absolutes, for instance. The death and resurrection of the Messiah is an absolute. In reality, the most important doctrines, I'll call them primary doctrines, are absolutes in that we can have a great deal of surety to our conclusions. But we have to also keep in mind that faith is about things unseen. If we need everything proven to ourselves, then we are treating ourselves as gods. We are acting like God must prove Himself to us in order for us to accept Him. That's blasphemy. Remember, I said the 10 commandments are absolutes. Isn't mainstream Christianity conditioned to not see the 4th commandment as binding or even mattering? Isn't this the problem I'm illustrating today? Satan can deceive God's people, who know the Bible, to ignore a commandment written into stone. That's a foundational problem.

Even in the "absolute" sciences, perfection is still not achievable. The Six Sigma method recognizes statistical perfection as having 3.4 errors per million. That means something is considered perfect even if it will fail 3 times per million tries. I bring this up because my career has been in science and engineering. There are calibration standards for physical dimensions like with manufacturing, electricity like voltage and resistance, speed or velocity, temperature, amounts of elements from the periodic table in aqueous solutions. The list is innumerable. And all these standards have specification parameters. A block gauge may have a tolerance of 1" +/- .002". Nothing is absolute. In science and engineering, we get closer and closer to absolute, but we never get there. And the closer to absolute you want to be, the more money it costs.

Repeat – perfection is not achievable and isn't even the goal. Even when things can be quantified. There's always room for error.

Let's bring in with secondary biblical doctrines or historical concepts. When we need to come to a conclusion on a doctrine where the Bible may be silent or perhaps there are verses that seem contrary, we need to assemble all the relevant verses, look up the words in Greek and Hebrew, and then make an educated decision. This is why theology is a social science. This is Christian or Jewish theology. The other religions are all just based on history, so they will be less accurate. Jews have written down many of their sewed together conclusions in the books of the Talmud. Christians have the ECFs, Catholic Catechism, and countless commentaries. All these references are snapshots in time, where people have put their own thoughts down about things. There is value in these resources, but they are not absolute by any stretch. When we have to look at bible+history+anthropology to formulate doctrines or get a handle on what happened, we are then deep into the realm of social sciences. In engineering terms, we would call this "semi-quant" or

“qualitative”. This is a scale of surety which shows quantitative data, things that can be measured, as being the most accurate. Quantifiable data is something that can be measured and checked. Like how much mayo is in a jar. If the jar says 10 ounces, you can take the mayo out and measure it to check. This is quantifiable data. Semi-quantifiable data is something where numbers support ideas, like polling data, but it’s not fully measurable. Polling data is compiled by asking a small number of people the same questions, compiling the answers, and then extrapolating the data to apply it to a larger populace. This gives us a feeling for how people are thinking or reacting but not absolute. Qualitative means that one can come to a conclusion based on trends but the conclusion can’t really be measured.

I mentioned at the beginning that we have forces at work undermining our educational institutions in order to sew discord. Some of these forces are man-made and Satan is also messing with us. Having a clear handle on reality is becoming a challenge. Even if you still do, you will have problems because many people don’t, so you will look strange to those who have a flawed baseline. This can cause dissent, confusion, and even damage people’s relationship with Yahweh and Yeshua. The problem here is some people have been taught error, or errors in thought, from the ground up. This means they are sure about things that are just not so. Take evolution for example. That concept is so entrenched that those of us who don’t accept it seem like we are from Mars to those who do. This anomaly is across the board today. We must put our knowledge and the gathering of that knowledge into the proper perspective. How accurate do we really need to be on topics the bible doesn’t specifically address? How accurate do we need to be on something based only on historical data? And sometimes we demand more proof than exists, or more proof for one topic that we require for others. It’s really easy to demand “source data” when you don’t think it exists and then say “well, without source data, we can’t really be sure, can we?” This line of argument is the same as making yourself out to be a god and somewhat manipulative. If something isn’t completely proven to 100%, and on your terms, then you don’t need to believe it, right? This is an impossible standard.

The LXX and the MT – We do not have the original Torah or Tanakh. The Jews I know who reject the LXX is because we don’t have the Hebrew that it’s based on. That’s an impossible standard and one not applied to the MT. The MT only dates to, at the oldest, 800 AD. That’s thousands of years after Moses. The LXX dates to 200 BC, 1000 years earlier, and was the bible of the synagogue and the basis for the New Testament. In this case, one can really say “if it was good enough for the apostles, it’s good enough for me.” But these two documents are what we have for the Old Testament. We don’t have the source material. We trust the Holy Spirit in the case of the Bible, so it does get different standards than all other material on earth, but let’s be real here about source data. We

don't need it because the two ancient documents we have match each other and match what's been found at Qumran, which is also not source material. So if we were to ignore the Holy Spirit's hand on biblical material and apply the standards of social science, the data would more than pass inspection.

I've heard it said there is no source data on Christmas being pagan. Let's just say that was true. It's not, but let's say it was. Are we supposed to learn the ways of the nations? No, we're not. If we visited a country and they had a celebration going on for a god in winter, would we just not partake? Of course. Now, if the celebration were secular in nature, meaning it was not a religious observance at all, then we might participate if we felt like it. There's nothing wrong with catching a parade and enjoying some festivities as long as they are secular or not pretending to be religious when not. The reality is the Bible has no commanded celebrations in winter at all and certainly none on the Gregorian calendar. If they are talking about the birth of a messiah or a son of god in December, we can rightly conclude that's not our Messiah because of the date and the practices. None of which are in scripture. So we can conclude Christmas is a religious holiday but not a biblical holiday *without any source data at all*. Then, if we're told the celebration *is* biblical, we can dive into the weeds and discover a short list of the following proofs, which includes source data:

- We know the date of Yeshua's birth is not recorded. Bible is the source data.
- We know when December 25 was chosen as His birth and who did it. Pope Julius 1 did this when he was pope sometime during 337-352. Here's your source data.
- We know if we do some serious study, He was probably born in the fall. We cannot conclude a date from scripture. This is semi-quant data, incidentally.
- We know if His birth had been recorded, it would have been recorded on a Hebrew calendar, not the Julian or Gregorian.
- We know the Romans had a pagan celebration in the wintertime that mirrors the 12 days of Christmas in many, many ways. Documentaries, articles, and books on this abound. All source data.
- We know where the yule log and mistletoe come from and that they have sexual and even homosexual influences. The mistletoe still does today. Source data abounds.
- We know where the trees come from and that Jeremiah specifically forbids bringing trees into your house and decorating them for the purpose of worship. Even though that verse is about contemporary idolatry, we still apply that theme. This is like how Paul uses not muzzling an ox to say a professional minister can get paid. Scripture is supposed to be applied in similar situations.

The list goes on and on. We actually do have plenty of source data here. And we have Pat Robertson's full-blown confession of Christmas being pagan recorded.

The pattern I just showed is pretty valuable. I'm showing how to apply our faith practically, not theoretically. After you read the bible cover to cover, you are then equipped to identify what is biblical and what isn't. Reading the bible cover to cover, in a normal translation, is how you get that foundation. It's really the only way I know to insulate you from the programming of the evil ones. Did you know, the USSR, the Nazis, and all the bad guys want the bible removed from society? Because they know they can't defeat you if you know your bible. They know they can't defeat God. This is why Satan messes with how people interpret the Bible. He knows it isn't going away, but if he can introduce faults into how we consume it, then the deception live on. Our best chance to fight deception is to trust the Word of God. We don't need source data on everything because the Bible is our source data. And then we have the Holy Spirit to guide us. However, if you want to dig deeper, or if the Spirit moves you to dig deeper, hopefully the rest of today's rant helps you along the way to have proper expectations.

Slide 7 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (Joh 4:23-24)

Just having knowledge is not the maturity of the faith. We can chase knowledge all the days of our lives and not fully come to the knowledge of Yahweh and the truth. Knowledge+trust in the Holy Spirit+experience is. We can get really far being black and white. Looking at things through an academic, knowledge based lens. But then the rubber has to meet the road. When you are a black and white person, trusting the grey area is something that is hard to do. The Bible, particularly the NT, was not written to engineers or by engineers. It was written by people with a first century Jewish education, through the Holy Spirit, and through the lens of their experiences. We aren't digesting information that was written or discovered in a lab, we are digesting information God gave us through His Word and the experiences of His people. This information was meant to be digested by the entire known world. The first century believers came into the faith quickly. They heard the Word, repented, and got Baptized in a short amount of time. Then they attended synagogue to learn Moses while living the faith. For us Gentiles to really learn Moses, we need our minds, the Holy Spirit, and our experiences. And sometimes source data.