
SEVEN KEYS TO AVOIDING DECEPTION

Shabbat Shalom! Welcome to Bible study. Today is God's time for us to rest and meet together to learn more of His way in dedicated service to him, so that we might be considered worthy to be in his coming kingdom. The new moon was sighted in Jerusalem, Israel, August 8 at sunset (Thursday night) and today is Elul 2. It always amazes me that generally speaking the Jewish fixed calendar is usually a day or two ahead of the Biblical observed new moon calendar. The mathematical calendar pinpoints when the conjunction occurs and that is in the *dark of the moon* before the first sliver of *the new moon can be seen*. So the Jewish fixed mathematical calendar can't see the new moon, but just claim it based on the conjunction with a few other considerations. Why not just observe the new moon like the Karaites do in Jerusalem today? Those who go by the mathematical calendar will most likely be keeping the holy days a day or so too early because of men's tradition. How often did Christ speak about the traditions of men replacing the commandments of God to no effect and worshipping him in vain?

The month after Elul is Tishri and the fall holy days: (all holy days begin at sunset the evening before)

- Rosh Hashana (Trumpets) on *Tishri* 1 September 8
- Yom Kippur (Atonement) on *Tishri* 10, September 17
- Sukkot (7-day Feast of Tabernacles) *Tishri* 15- 25 September 22-28
- Shmini Atzeret (the 8th day/ Last Great Day) September 29

Shmini Atzeret is the final holy day of the Hebrew civil calendar year. We need to prepare for these holy days that are coming when we are going to appear before God at the right time and properly attired. The fall holy days begin in September with Rosh Hashanah about five weeks from now. I am beginning to get that feast feeling with great anticipation. The feast of Tabernacles can't really be any earlier than that, because the feast occurs on or just after the Fall Equinox, September 22, 2013 at 3:44 p.m. CDT (in the Northern Hemisphere: USA, Central America, Canada, Europe, Asia, northern Africa). It is about the earliest Tabernacles can be and still be in the right season, and it is in the right season. So we will be keeping it at the appointed time.

Yesterday I put an announcement up on our website regarding reservations and information about the Feast of Tabernacles for all those who were interested in joining with us in Omak this year. Services will be held daily throughout the Feast on the telephone conference hookup and computer live streaming. We will have the sukkah dwelling experience and wave the lulav. There are many motels to select from and camping is available. Since the feast will be early this year, the weather should be nice for camping out. The afternoon meal will be held together, family style. Those of you planning to attend, please let us hear from you as soon as possible and the number in your group. Email us at triumphpro@aol.com, or by a letter or phone. Pray for God's spiritual inspiration and blessing to be poured out upon his people as we study the word of God, fellowship and sing together with praises to our awesome God. It is the season of our JOY! We welcome all who want to join us. It would be nice and even more special for those inspired by God's Spirit who can be here in person with a positive loving spirit and serving attitude toward each other. We are looking forward to a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles together.

The Essence of the Holy Days by Avraham Yaakov Finkel, pages 2-3. Historically, the forty days that span the first day of Elul and Yom Kippur have been associated with divine pardon and benevolence. The

month of Elul has been a favorable time for bring about a reconciliation between God and his people. Moses shattered the Tablets of the Law he was carrying when he came down Mt. Sinai and saw the people of Israel dancing around a Golden Calf (a great sin). This happened on the first day of Elul. The Levites went through the whole assembly and killed those who were worshipping the Golden Calf. “Moses then went back up the mountain and convened with God, pleading for divine mercy for Israel. God responded by telling Moses to carve out two stone tablets just like the first ones (**Exodus 34:1**). After a sojourn of forty days on Mt. Sinai, Moses came down with the second set of tablets on *Yom Kippur* (the tenth of Tishri), as a token that God had forgiven the sin of the Golden Calf. This manifestation of supreme divine pardon has been imprinted on the Jewish calendar for all time, marking these forty days as a period of self-examination, repentance and forgiveness.” This time during the forty days Moses was on the mountain top, Israel was watching and *carefully* counted each day and night that passed, eagerly expecting and awaiting Moses’ return. They were mindful not to get into a spirit of impatience or give up and decide that Moses was dead or lost, as they had believed had happened during his first trip up Mt. Sinai.

I think the two sets of tablets illustrate the First covenant and the second set, illustrates the New Covenant. The first set of tablets was a type of the First Covenant which were God’s laws written out by God. Nothing was wrong with the covenant. The sin was within the people who failed to remain faithful to their promise and began to worship idols, so God had to punish them. After they repented of sin the first time, they were careful not to sin during the forty days that Moses was gone and returned with the second set of tablets at the end of forty days on Yom Kippur (Atonement). God made an atonement for his people with the second set of tablets and a New Covenant (in type) was established. When you take a look at it, both sets of tablets had the same set of Laws written by the finger of God. Both sets contained the Ten Commandments. **The Law did not change, but the heart of the people was what had the change.** The people had to repent of their stubborn idolatry and wickedness and humble themselves in submission to obey God, yield to His authority and to be willing to keep His commandments. The commandments didn’t change.

Malachi 3:6—“I am the Lord, I change not, therefore you sons of Jacob are not consumed.” God is a patient, loving God. **Hebrews 13:8**—“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever.” God and Christ do not change; they are absolutely constant—always merciful, kind, just—perfect. Therefore, the laws of God do not change. The way God deals is consistent in dealing with his creation, creatures and mankind. In learning to become like Him and follow him, we need to incorporate his law, statutes, judgments and commandments in our mind. That is one of the reasons that we brethren come together at Tabernacles, so that we can learn more about God and inculcate his character and Spirit into our very souls. We are to become in character and spirit like our Father and Christ who are one. **Ephesians 3:16**—“The Holy Spirit of Christ given to us is of God who has called us, that we might be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.”

Ephesians 4:21—The Holy Spirit is truth, and the truth is in Jesus. **1 Peter 2:21**—We are to follow Christ who left us an example that we should follow his steps. Christ was obedient and did the will of his Father. “The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy (**James 3:17**).” **Galatians 5: 22-25**—“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.” “They that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Therefore we are to act like Christ; do as he did, be full of mercy and judge righteously when judgment is necessary—strive do what is right. We are not to justify the wicked.

Often people take things for granted and fail to prove things for themselves. Carelessness and superficial judgment can cause dire mistakes which can result in costly consequences. **Matthew 24:22-21**—"The disciples came to Jesus privately and asked "What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" In verses **4-20** Christ states what is going to happen. **Verse 22**—"For then there will be great tribulation, unequalled since the beginning of the world until this time—and never will be equaled again. And except *those days will be shortened* there should be no flesh saved; but for the elect's sake, whom he has chosen, those days will be shortened." For the first time in history, the world has made and stored enough weapons, both nuclear and biological, weapons of war for massive destruction of all people on the earth. Unless God intervenes, everyone is going to be dead.

Matthew 24:26-27—"If anyone tells you, "He is in the desert" do not go, or "Here he is in the inner rooms", do not believe it (also in **Mark 13:21**). "For as lightning that comes from the east is visible to even to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then shall the sign of the Son of Man appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn and they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Acts 8:9-17—"But there was a certain man called Simon (Simon Magus), who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying "This man is the great power of God." They heeded him (followed him) because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. Simon heard Philip when he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, and Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived they prayed for those who had accepted the word of God that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

Verse 18—"When Simon saw that through the *laying on* of the apostles' hands, the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, 'Give me this power also, that anyone whom I lay hand may receive the Holy Spirit.' But Peter said to him, 'Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be bought (purchased) with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. I see that you are poisoned with bitterness and bound by iniquity (held captive by sin).' Then Simon answered, 'Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me'."

Simon Magus was a magician and sorcerer who performed impressive signs and wonders which deceived many people. **Mark 13:22**—"For false christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to seduce (*deceive*) the elect, if it were possible. Take heed, be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time." It pays to be alert and very careful so that we don't follow another's deception and charisma. There are always con-men with personality in the religious world with ideas waiting to deceive those who listen carelessly, especially trusting elderly people.

The following are *seven keys* that will help us *avoid deception*: 1). **Love the truth.** 2). **Search the scriptures.** 3). **Prove all things.** 4). **Test the spirits—hold fast to the good.** 5). **Judge not by appearance.** 6). **Know them by their fruits.** 7). **Do not follow a multitude.**

What is apostasy? The Greek word *apostacea* means apostacy (literally, a departure from the truth; going astray into error). **Do not be led off by any means** into “the way of sin”. Protect yourself from being deceived.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-10—“Now, Brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (Messiah) and our being gathered to Him at his return, we ask you, not to be shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter (reports), as it were from us, as though the day of Lord is at hand. Let no one deceive you by any means, for that Day will not come except there comes the falling away first and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.” “And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so until he is taken out of the way. Then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.”

God says we will know people by their fruits (deeds). The antichrist is already on the horizon and he is growing and consolidating his resources and support. There is a man on the world scene today whose fruits are apostate and I think he could well be the one. It is interesting that those who oppose him are being eliminated from the political scene one by one. Either God has to remove the restraint, or he has to take them out of the way. One of this man’s arch critics is Glenn Beck. Glen is a politically conservative American television and radio host, political commentator, author, television network producer, media personality and entrepreneur. He formerly hosted the daily, one hour Glenn Beck TV program from January 2009 to June 30, 2011 on the Fox News Channel. A new two hour show began his television network which is a *subscription-based internet TV network*, *TheBlaze* TV show on June 30, 2011. He presented some very strong programs as a restraining voice in exposing the far left (i.e., George Soros) influence and aspirations in creating the “New World Order”.

This week when Fox News announced that Megyn Kelly was going to be moving from daytime to primetime, it did not specify what hour she would be taking over. According to a “flash” from Matt Drudge on Thursday (8/8/13) that hour is 9 PM – which is better-known as the time when Sean Hannity’s show airs. – *Huffington Post* (8/8/13). “So far, Fox News’s well-regulated PR militia has refused to confirm or deny the Drudge Report’s scoop (8/8/13) about Kelly’s impending promotion to Hannity’s time slot, except to say that “the network has signed long-term deals” with its entire roster of nighttime talent. If the report were to prove true, the big question would be what happens to Hannity?”

Sean Hannity, American television host of *The Sean Hannity Show* on Fox News Channel, features Hannity’s conservative opinions and ideology related to current issues and politicians. Fox’s News chairman, Roger Ailes said, “Hannity is a brand that many of our viewers love and want to see and he’s also probably the nicest guy in the building. Currently on maternity leave, Kelly is expected to assume her new perch in September having averaged 1.2 million viewers for her two-hour weekday mid-afternoon program *America Live*. Kelly herself announced her primetime gig in early July during her farewell commentary, before going off to give birth. Ailes also said that he has been working with Shep Smith, who anchors the network’s 3 and 7 PM hours, on a “new way to deliver news” that would be unveiled in September—just around the time Kelly returns from maternity leave”

Megan Kelly is a friend and guest host regularly filling various time slots on Bill O’Reilly prime time program this summer. O’Reilly has toned down his criticism of this political government figure. O’Reilly is more in the middle, although he does not like a lot of the things that this figure does. The restraining

power is being eliminated right and left. Voices of the far right, those who are very conservative in critical reasoning are being eliminated. Hannity will probably still have a program, but it may not be his coveted 9 PM daily prime time slot. In my opinion, Sean Hannity is one of the best voices on Fox News right now and he is virtually being eclipsed (shut up). Those representatives left in the Republican Party are all supportive of the Democrats and the President. Recently the “*Gang of Eight*” passed an immigration bill (agreement with the Democrats) which is going to give the Democrats the rule of the country—essentially the buying of Hispanic votes. The government is not going to police the borders, but promises to do so. The Republican Party has been restraining this Democratic power grab, but the way they have done it has weakened the Republican Party and undercut their strength and power in Congress. Republican Party members attacked *The Tea Party*, the really true conservatives, and joined the media attack stopping *The Tea Party’s* progress. In the next two years we are going to see the power of the antichrist more fully revealed and witness greater government control over the cities in the U.S., especially as the economy goes down and the people are hungry because there are no jobs.

Leviticus 25:4—“*Every seven years Hebrews were required by Torah to let the land have a Sabbath rest; in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the Lord. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.*” *And at the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts.*” “And this is the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent anything to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the Lord’s release.”

Every seventh year God said to keep the Sabbatical year, or what is known as a Shemita year-- *the releasing(cancellation) from all debts – a year of restitution.* The Sabbatical Year ends on Elul 29, the last day on the Hebrew calendar before the Rosh Hashanah and the Jewish New Year. Elul 29 fell on September 17, 2001, a Shemita year, just 6 days after 9/11—the Twin Trade Towers disaster occurred. The stock market fell dramatically around the world. On this day at the end of this 7 year period, the US Dow Jones dropped 7 percent! It was one of the biggest drops in US history since the Great Depression. Seven years later, it is another Elul 29 on September 29, 2008 a Sabbatical Sabbath (Shemita year) and the U.S. stock market plummeted to a loss of 777 points. The next Shemita year will occur in 2015. Will America repent and return to God and follow his command?

Deuteronomy 30:1-3—God said in the days of Moses, “And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon you the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you shall call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord your God has driven you, and shall return unto the Lord your God, and shall obey his voice according to all that I command you this day, you and your children, with all your heart , and with all your soul; that then the Lord your God will have compassion upon you, and will return and gather you from all the nations, wherever the Lord your God has scattered you.”

2 Thessalonians 29:9-12 —“This lawless man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. He will use every kind of wicked deception to fool those who are on their way to destruction (perishing) because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so they will believe the lie that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but have delighted in wickedness.” If you, brethren, want to escape deception you have to love the truth.” The first condition is to LOVE the TRUTH. **John 10:35**--Christ said to the Father, “thy word is truth”; “the scriptures cannot be broken.” If you love the word of God, you will read and study the word of God (Bible) so you can absorb it into your heart and mind, as David said: “thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you.” If we don’t memorize and hid God’s word in our heart and minds, we can sin (break the law of God). **John 4: 3**—all unrighteousness is sin. **Sin is the transgression (breaking) of God’s Law.** If we want to avoid sin, we need to continually study the word of God and

keep it near and dear. **Acts 17:11**—At Thessalonica Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.” Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and many prominent women. In Berea the people of Berea were “**of more noble character** (more open-minded) than the Thessalonians, for they *received the message with great eagerness* and **searched the scriptures every day** to see if what Paul said was true. Many of the Jews believed, as did a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.”

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21—“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise (hold in contempt) prophesyings.” NKJV—“**Test** all things.” The KJV says—“**Prove** all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance (every form) of evil.” Spend the amount of time it takes to carefully and painstakingly to prove what is stated. In mathematics theories you have to study the theory, work with it to see if it really works or not. How does one prove (test) all things? Prove all things by comparing everything with the word of God—the scriptures. **Isaiah 8:16-20**—*a command to trust the Lord.* “Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples and I will wait on the Lord, who hides his face from the house of Jacob; and I will hope in Him. Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me. We are for signs and wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.”

Isaiah 8:19 (NKJV)—“And when men tell you, ‘Seek (consult) those who are mediums and wizards (spiritists), who whisper and mutter,’ should not a people seek (inquire of) their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?” Saul went to consult with the witch of En Dor to see what was going to happen in the future. Mediums and wizards are still around today, advertized by various means as television, billboards and magazines, ready to perform séances to raise up the spirit of the dead like the witch of Endor in the days of King Saul.

1 Samuel 28:1-10—it happened in the days of Saul after Samuel died that the Philistines gathered their armies together for war to fight Israel. Saul had expelled all those who had familiar spirits, wizards, mediums and spiritists (psychics) from the land of Israel. When Saul saw the hosts of the Philistines camped at Shunem, he was afraid and terror filled his heart with trembling. When he inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets. The Lord had removed His Spirit from Saul because of his rebellion; he had been cut off. **Verse 7**--Saul then said to his servants, “find me a woman who is a medium so I may go and inquire of her.” His servants said “there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor.” So Saul disguised himself in other clothes and at night he and two men went to the woman. “Consult a spirit for me,” he said, “and bring up for the one I name.” But the woman said to him, “Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those that have familiar spirits and the wizards, out of the land. Why then do you set a trap for my life, to bring about my death?” Saul swore to her by the Lord, “As the Lord lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.”

Note: The Bible gives strict instructions against delving into the realm of spirits (Leviticus 19:31; Lev. 20:6-7, 27; Deut. 18:10-12). Some who claim to have contact with spirits are frauds, but certainly there are genuine cases. God is against any form of spiritism, fraudulent or real. See 1 Chronicles 10:13-14. The most likely explanation is that the woman expected contact with a demon (posing as Samuel, v.11) but, to her amazement and terror (v.12), God actually permitted Samuel to appear to her and give a message of doom to Saul. The text clearly states that it was Samuel (vv.15-16, 20). No agent of Satan could have given a message so clearly from the Lord as v.17. The passage does not say that the woman “brought up” Samuel from the dead. The incident gives no support to the false contention of spiritists that they can speak with the dead. Mediums do not have access to the dead but communicate with spirits posing as persons who have died; thus these spirits are called *lying spirits* (1 Kings 22:22). See enclosed

article: “*Saul and the Witch at En Dor.*” This woman was known for her dealing with occult powers to some degree.

Verses 11-13—“Then the woman asked Saul, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” “Bring up Samuel,” he said. When the woman saw Samuel, she screamed with a loud voice, “Why have you deceived me. You are Saul!” The king said to her, “Don’t be afraid. What do you see?” “I see a spirit coming up out of the ground.” “What does he look like? He asked. “An old man covered with a mantle (robe) is coming up,” she said. Then Saul perceived (knew) **it was Samuel**, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself. The text clearly states that Samuel **said to Saul**, “**Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?**” Samuel was buried in the grave. Samuel’s spirit returned to God when he died and his spirit was with God, but God allowed his spirit on this occasion to return to give Saul God’s message.

1 Samuel 28:15-19—Saul answered, “I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you that you may reveal to me what I should do.” Then Samuel said: “So why do you ask me, seeing the Lord has departed from you and has become your enemy? The Lord has done for Himself as he predicted (spoke) through me. The Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord nor execute his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you this day. Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me (dead and in the grave). The Lord will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.” *The day of consequence had come for Saul. God had given Saul many years to repent and change—reroute his life—alter his course and to repent and return to God. He hadn’t done it.*

Verses 20-24—“Immediately Saul fell with the fullness of his stature (full length) on the ground, filled with fear because of Samuel’s words. There was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all that day and night. The woman came to Saul and saw that he was filled with fear and said to him, “Look, your maidservant has obeyed your voice, and I took my life in my hands and did what you told me to do. Now please listen to your servant and let me give you a piece of bread so you may eat and have the strength to go on your way.” But he refused and said, “I will not eat.” So his servants, together with the woman urged him and he listened to them and arose from the ground and sat on the couch. The woman had a fattened calf at the house, which she butchered at once. She took some flour, kneaded it and baked bread without yeast (unleavened bread) from it. Then she set it before Saul and his men and they ate. That same night they got up and left.”

Do not seek mediums and familiar spirits, seek God! Read the testimonies. **Isaiah 8:20-22**—“To the Law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” “Check their predictions against my testimony”, says the Lord. If their predictions are different from mine, it is because there is no light or truth in them. My people will be led away as captives, weary and hungry. And because they are hungry, they will rage and shake their fists at heaven and curse their king and their God. Wherever they look there will be trouble and anguish and dark despair. They will be thrown out into darkness (New Living Translation).”

There are a lot of people leading others astray in this world with their own separate ministry of some sort. They write books, talk about visions and dreams, speaking in tongues and impress and lead others to think that they are godly and they are not. Those who follow them failed to examine everything they are told in light of the scriptures. **2 Corinthian 13:5**—“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you through the Holy Spirit?—unless, indeed you are disqualified.” **1 Timothy 4:1**—“the Spirit clearly says that in latter times some will depart (abandon) the faith and follow deceiving spirits and doctrines (false teachings) of demons, speaking lies and in

hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.” They make merchandise of people and take their money.

This week, I learned of a man in South Carolina who tells of visions and has filled two volumes with his writings. This false teacher told a certain man in California it was the Lord’s will that he was to give up his prospering business and move to South Carolina to join him. The man in California gave up his fifty thousand dollar a year job and he and his wife moved to South Carolina. Now he has no job and is living on Social Security and odd jobs. A minister’s widow living in Virginia, a friend of the California couple also sold her property, valuables and collectables and joined that same group in South Carolina. Next thing we learn is that they are broke and destitute. These people have listened to seducing (lying) spirits and failed to carefully test and prove the teachings of this self appointed teacher to see if his teachings were according to the Law and the testimony. God is allowing them to learn a lesson and to wake up and repent of their mistake, ask for God’s forgiveness and start over from scratch.

Titus 1:16—to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. “They claim to know God, but by their actions (works) they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.” They have not proved the basic truth and testimony of God, nor asked why they should inquire and follow His commands. Read the booklet on the true calendar of God. Read the articles: *The Holy Days* and how to keep them and learn about Tabernacles— the sukkah (a temporary dwelling) and the Last Great Day (Shemini Azaret).

1 John 4:1 gives us further information of what to do to protect ourselves from being deceived by false prophets. “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone into the world. **By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God.** And this is the *spirit of the Antichrist*, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.” Do not assume or be naïve. You test the spirits by the word of God. Whatever you hear and are told, compare it to the scriptures. If it is different from the scriptures, it is because there is no light in them—no knowledge in them, just darkness. Christ (his Spirit) is the light of the world.

White reflects light, and black adsorbs light. Black is the absence of light. White light (sunlight) when shone through a prism can be separated into 7 colors (ROYGBIV—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet) and they can be recombined to make white light which is the composition of all colors of visible light that we can see. A rainbow is composed of the entire spectrum of colors of visible light from the longest wavelength, red, to the shortest wavelength, violet. In Omak, we often see double rainbows in the sky after rain.

Do not believe everything that you hear said in sincerity. One can be very sincere and sincerely very wrong! Prove it, check it out, verify the source whether is true or not— measure everything by the scriptures—“thy word is truth”. If something contradicts scripture, then it is not truth, but error, deception and a lie. He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. John 2:1—“if anyone sins, we have an Advocate who speak to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Bu this we know that we know Him, if we keep his commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep his commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. *This is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.* Those who know God listen to us; he who is not of God does not hear us.”

John 1:14—“the Word (the Logos) became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Since this verse is in the present progressive tense in Greek it says that Christ is coming in the flesh is of God. How is he coming in the flesh? Because if we are His, then we repented of our sins, were baptized, and had hands laid on us wherein we received the Holy Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ comes upon us. If the Spirit of Christ is in us, then it will lead us to obey the commandments of God even as Christ obeyed the commandments of God. But every other spirit that does not confess that Christ came in the flesh or is coming through the Holy Spirit into our flesh is not of God. It is the spirit of *antichrist*— one who is *anti-God (or in the place of God) which is the spirit of the devil* who purposes to take the place of God.

Revelation 12:9—“that great dragon was cast out of heaven, that old serpent, called the devil and Satan, which deceives the whole world; he was cast out into the earth (Luke 10:18) and his angels were cast out with him.” Satan is the prince of the power of the air and prince of this world system. **Isaiah 14:12-15**— Lucifer rebelled because of pride and rebellion; **John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9**. **Isaiah 44:6**—“thus says the Lord the King of Israel and his redeemer the Lord of hosts (Messiah); I AM the first, and I AM the last and beside me there is no God.” **2 Timothy 2:15** (KJV)—“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (NIV). You will learn and be able to understand and analyze (correctly handle) the word of truth.

2 Timothy 3:7-9—“Have nothing to do with (stay away from) people who act as if they are godly, but they reject the power of God that could make them godly. They are the kind who work their way into people’s homes and gain control of gullible women loaded down with sins swayed by various lusts, *always learning* but never able to come to *knowledge of the truth*.” They learn many new teachings—speculations, theories, and hypothesis (i.e., theory of evolution) but not the truth. “Like Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men resist the truth—men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they will progress no further for their foolishness will be manifest to all” like that of Jannes and Jambres.

2 Timothy 4:3—Paul says, “the time is coming when people will not endure (put up with) sound doctrine—the teaching of God’s word.” They will no longer want to hear the truth. For example, the churches of the world are embracing homosexuality, including the Church of England. When Pope Francis of the Roman Catholic Church spoke unscripted with the international press this past week regarding and asked about homosexuals he said, “I am not the judge”. God judges and this is what he says, **1 Corinthians 6:9**—“Know you not that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” Those who do not follow the scriptures are false teachers. It is necessary to know where you stand—with God or the antichrist. The Pope of Rome is an antichrist.

“But according to their own desires, they shall heap to themselves (their own) teachers, having itching ears; and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables (lies).” Those who teach what they want to hear. What does God tell us to do? **John 7:24**—Christ himself said, “**Judge not according to the appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.**” **1 Samuel 16:7**—“*the Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*”

2 Corinthians 11:13—Paul says, “what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we (apostles) are in the things of which they boast. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder!

For Satan transforms himself (masquerades as) into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his servants also transform (disguise/outwardly appear as) themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works (what their actions deserve).” **Prove all things.**

2 Corinthians 11:1—Paul said, “I hope you will bear with me in a little folly (foolishness); but you are already doing that. I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin (a godly church) to him. But I fear that just as Eve was *deceived* by the *serpent’s* cunning (craftiness), your minds may somehow be led astray (corrupted) from your **sincere and pure devotion to Christ**—**the simplicity that is in Christ**. “For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted (one we did not preach)—you may put up with it!”

Exodus 23:2—“You shall not follow a multitude (crowd) in doing wrong (to do evil).” Do not follow any teacher that comes along saying that he has a new path to God. Hold fast to the faith delivered. Jude said (vs. 3-4) “I find that I must write and urge you to contend (fight for) earnestly for the faith (the truth) which was once delivered unto the saints.” Love the truth of God with all your heart, mind and soul. Pray without ceasing for God to give us his truth and to guide, guard, direct and protect us from deception and error that surrounds all of us. Jesus said, to those who believed on him, “**if you continue in my word, you are my disciples in deed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**”

May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who will also do it.