

WORKBOOK

JACK HIBBS

LIVING IN THE DAZE OF DECEPTION

HOW TO DISCERN TRUTH
FROM CULTURE'S LIES

LIVING IN THE DAZE OF DECEPTION

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JACK HIBBS



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PART 1

RECOGNIZING THE MANY KINDS OF DECEPTION

LESSON 1

THE DAZE OF GLOBAL DECEPTION

The thicker fog gets, the more dangerous it becomes. The same is true about deception. The more that deception abounds, the greater the need for us to exercise discernment in our everyday living.

Scripture tells us that as we approach earth's last days, deception will worsen. We are surrounded by hazards that are difficult to see. And the only way to safely navigate our way through the daze of deception is to walk in the light that God's Word provides. Though the Bible was written 2,000 years ago, it is filled with wisdom that addresses the crises we face today. The psalmist's declaration, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" is still true as ever (Psalm 119:105).

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines deception as "the act of causing someone to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid."* The reason deception is so tricky to avoid is that it masquerades as truth. Those who peddle lies present their narratives as truths with the intent to persuade and convince. And one of the most effective ways they do that is to shroud falsehood with some element of truth. It's that little bit of truth that is used to bait people into swallowing a lie.

The very definition of deception should tell us it is hard to recognize, which is why we need to exercise so much caution.

Jesus warned this would happen as our world draws closer to the last days. When the disciples asked the Lord about the signs of His future return, what were His very first words? "Take heed that no one deceives you" (Matthew 24:4).

We dare not take our Lord's exhortation lightly. That's because deception can cause us to stray from God's path—and His light. It can leave us stumbling in the darkness, vulnerable to errors that can cause great harm to us.

GROWING IN DISCERNMENT

As you answer the following questions, you'll want to have your Bible in hand, as well as your copy of the book *Living in the Daze of Deception*.

* Merriam Webster, s.v. "deception," <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/deception>.

1. What are two or three examples of deception you've noticed in recent weeks?

2. Oftentimes a falsehood is shrouded with enough truth to make it seem believable. Give one example of how you've seen this happen before.

3. Can you think of a time when you heard or read something, but you weren't sure it was true? When you are uncertain about a claim or a statement, what do you think is the best way to respond, and why?

4. On page 17 of *Living in the Daze of Deception*, we read about the classic legend of the Trojan horse. What trickery was carried out in this tale?

5. In the account about the Trojan horse, it was the packaging (the wooden horse) that hid the danger within (the Greek soldiers). The strategy of using deceptive packaging is not new. Read the following passages. In each case, identify the attractive package presented by the one doing the deceiving:
 - a. Genesis 3:1-7—

b. Matthew 4:8-11—

c. Revelation 13:11-13—

6. Oftentimes a falsehood is successful only because the person who is spreading it is able to control the flow of information. Share about a time when you've seen this happen.
7. When it comes to watching out for those who control the flow of information for the purpose of deception, what wisdom do we find in Proverbs 18:17?
8. What scripture applies to every Christian in these last days, and why? (See page 18 of *Living in the Daze of Deception*.)

9. What criticism did Jesus give to the religious leaders of His day in Matthew 16:2-3, and why? (See page 19.)

10. According to 1 Timothy 3:2-4, what attitudes and behaviors can we expect from people in the last days?

11. What does 2 Timothy 4:3-4 warn that people will turn away from? What will they pursue instead?

12. On pages 21 to 29 of *Living in the Daze of Deception*, we learn that the events of the last days have been designed
 - to validate God
 - to validate the Bible
 - to validate Jesus Christ
 - to validate the Messiah's identity
 - to get our attention

On the next page, let's take a closer look at these purposes.

a. To Validate God

What absolute truths does God proclaim about Himself in Isaiah 46:9-10 and Isaiah 45:21-22?

b. To Validate the Bible

According to 2 Peter 1:19, why can we trust God's Word? (See page 23.)

c. To Validate Jesus Christ

What did Jesus mean when He said, "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He" (John 13:19)? What is the significance of "I AM" here? (See page 25.)

d. To Validate the Messiah's Identity

How do Micah 5:2, paired with Matthew 2:4-6, and Psalm 40:6-8, paired with Hebrews 10:5-10, validate Jesus as the Messiah? (See pages 26-28.)

e. To Get Our Attention

As the world around us gets worse, what should we be doing, according to Hebrews 10:23-25? (See page 29.)

13. When Jesus spoke about the last days, He said, “See that you are not troubled” (Matthew 24:6). Why should we not be troubled, according to John 16:33? (See pages 30-31.)

SEEKING CLARITY

“When it comes to spiritual realities, there’s only one way to know the truth. That, of course, is the Bible—the inerrant, perfect, never-changing Word of God. When the church—the ground and pillar of all truth—proclaims the whole counsel of God from the Bible, deception will not and cannot take hold.”

Living in the Daze of Deception, page 21

14. What benefits can we derive from the Bible, according to the following passages?
- a. Psalm 1:2-4—

b. Psalm 19:7-11—

c. Psalm 119:11—

d. 2 Timothy 3:16-17—

15. Read Romans 12:2. What types of influences can cause us to become conformed to this world? And why does it make sense that constant exposure to Scripture helps to transform and renew our mind?

LIVING WISELY

16. Colossians 3:16 urges us to “let the word of Christ dwell in [us] richly.”
- a. What are some practical ways we can actively fill our minds and hearts with the Word?

- b. Where do you see room for improvement when it comes to filling yourself with the truths of Scripture?

PRAYING DILIGENTLY

Pray “search me, O God, and know my heart” (Psalm 139:23). Ask the Lord to reveal to you any weaknesses in your life that make you vulnerable to deception. Commit yourself to being firmly rooted in God’s Word so that you possess the discernment that will help you to avoid deception.