

THE LAST DAYS EDITION ~ VOL. 1

Massive Deceptions in Modern Christianity

Exposing Myths & Sacrificing Sacred-Cows on the
Altar of Truth

By Steven Hawk

***** ATTENTION: A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR WITH A SPECIAL OFFER IS AT THE END OF THIS SAMPLE INTRODUCTION. THIS IS ONLY THE INTRODUCTION AND DOES NOT PROVIDE ENOUGH SPACE TO BUST THE MYTHS OR OFFER MANY ANSWERS, BUT WILL INFORM YOU OF SOME POSITIONS TAKEN. DON'T FORGET THE SPECIAL OFFER ON THE LAST PAGE!***

WHAT OTHERS ARE ALREADY SAYING ABOUT

THE CHRISTIAN MYTHBUSTER SERIES: THE LAST DAYS EDITION

Aside from the astounding biblical discoveries that speak for themselves, the riveting aspect of the book is getting some real exciting reactions too.

"Many people are finding out these sacred cows are all dried up, they're not producing milk and need to be sacrificed on the altar of truth."

—**John Anderson** "The Voice of Reason Public Radio Broadcast"

"Steven Hawk offers numerous insights into how seemingly obscure Bible passages such as those referring to the 'mountains of Israel' have had their applicability confined to Old Testament times or to the 1st Century AD. He realizes that there primary applications should be assigned to the reign of Christ, symbolized by 'the thousand years' of Revelation 20 and to 'the little season' that follows that long period."

—**Dr. John Evans, Ph.D. University Professor of Alabama**, Author of several books including "The Statue of Daniel 2" and his forthcoming "The 5 Kingdoms of Daniel"

"Through forward thinking, studying and applying Biblical principles and understanding, Steve has uncovered a synthesis between confusing Old Covenant prophecies and New Covenant teachings. He has done his homework in bringing together Ezekiel, Zechariah and Revelation. The points he makes are worthy of any believer's consideration and diligent study. It is more apparent today, than ever, that traditional teaching from both the conventional and unconventional sides of eschatology should not be used as a building block in trying to bring harmony to the Bible. Only as we use scripture to prove and support scripture can we truly see the complete picture of Yahweh's plan. My hat is off to Steve for being willing to push his beliefs and understandings out of the way and discover important gems straight from scripture."

—**John Heiermann**

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*"O Jehovah, my strength and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the nations shall come to You from the ends of the earth and say, **Our fathers have inherited only lies, vanity, and there is no profit in them.**" (Jeremiah 16:19 LITV)*

***An honest but mistaken man, once shown the truth,
either ceases to be mistaken or ceases to be honest.***
— Jewish proverb

*"The men the American people admire most extravagantly are the greatest liars;
the men they detest most violently are those who try to tell them the truth"
-- H.L. Mencken*

*Hosea 4:14c ...**the people that doth not understand shall be overthrown.** "...The people
who do not understand are thrust down. (LITV)"*

***"There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true;
the other is to refuse to accept what is true."***
-- Soren Kierkegaard

***For we did not follow cunningly devised fables... Nor giving heed to Jewish fables, and
commandments of men, that turn from the truth. (2 Peter 1:16a; Titus 1:14)***

***"For we are not as the many, corrupting the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of
God, in the sight of God, speak we in Christ." (2 Cor 2:17)***

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ABBREVIATIONS & DEFINITIONS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

When not otherwise listed the American Standard Version (ASV) of the Bible is being used.

ABP+ = The Apostolic Bible Polyglot similar to Interlinear Greek Septuagint (LXX)

aka = also known as

cf. = confer and "compare to"

circa (ca.) = from Latin, meaning "around", approximately, about

cp. = Latin abbreviation meaning "compare," used interchangeably with "cf."

emphasis added or with emphasis = a direct quote, but the author has added emphasis

e.g. = Latin: such as; for example

et al = Latin for "et alii," which means "and others"

Eschatology = the eschaton, a big fifty-cent word to explain the biblical "last days"

ff = "and following"

FP = Full Preterist

Great White Throne Judgment = GWTJ

i.e. = Latin: that is (to say); in other words; also to define a word

KJV = King James Version

LITV = Literal Translation

Millennial Reign = the thousand year (millennium) reign of Christ with His Saints

Millennium = A modified Latin word that means "one thousand"

NC = New Covenant and NT = New Testament

Old and NT = Old and New Testament

OT = Old Testament

Parousia = Greek Word for English word "presence" mistranslated "coming"

[*sic*] = Adverb used in brackets after a copied or quoted word that seems odd or erroneous to show that the word's being quoted precisely, as thus.

Soteriology = Salvation, which is inseparably intertwined with eschatology

viz. = Latin synonym for "that is to say", namely, precisely, as follows

vv. = as referring to Bible verses, means Bible verses (plural)

YLT = Young's Literal Translation

MASSIVE DECEPTIONS IN MODERN CHRISTIANITY

EXPOSING Myths & Sacrificing Sacred Cows on the Altar of Truth;
The Christian MythBuster Series, Vol. 1

(PART I) INTRODUCTION ~ CHAPTER 1

"And you have made void the word of God because of your tradition (!)"
-Jesus Christ (Matthew 15:6b)

"There are none so blind as those who refuse to see."
-Shatter Paradigms

Psa 4:2 O sons of men, until when will you ease being heavy hearted?
Why do you love folly, and you seek a lie? ABP+

"Before the world of truth can come, the world of lies must disappear"
- Rabbi Avraham Yitzchak Kook

"Cursed be the one who does the LORD'S work negligently. [and deceitfully]."
(Jer48:10a NASV- [KJV])

Has Christianity become so corrupted with deception that this book—and *an entire forthcoming series* of myth-busting books to accompany this book—is needed to uncover the distortion, to bring it back to Biblical Truth?

You are about to be confronted with life-changing truths and challenged by a new, more biblical way of thinking! To begin with, do you realize that where man-made traditions defiant to biblical teachings have come into conflict with the Bible, that tradition has often been given precedence over biblical truth? The blinding lens of presumptuous bias is dominating in many circles of Christianity today, for many reasons we will go over. This distortion has trickled down through the **many** Christian sects and denominations, affecting even their *essential doctrines*, and infiltrating the minds of the sleeping masses. To thinking people that are searching for answers, this distortion being taught takes away credibility from Christianity (Mat 15:6).

This book is a strong repudiation of those kinds of human traditions and philosophies in all forms - even if disguised as a creed or anything else labeled orthodox - if it does not uphold scripture. In this information age, these doctrines are showing their ugly faces now, more than ever. Today there are thousands of sects with different names and diverse doctrines. When Paul said, "Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment (1Co. 1:10). In this Last Days edition, Book 1, you will be freed from three main harmful misconceptions (next page topics) and widely held man-made traditions, that *cannot*—I submit *do not*—square with scripture!

We fortunate few were taught in our formative years to take everything we heard with a few grains of salt. At least until we figure out the truths for ourselves or we were considered naive - *right?* Believe it or not, the Bible teaches the same thing; it tells us to "**prove all things**" and hold fast to that which is good (1Th 5:21; Rom 12:2 et al). From the looks of things, **the majority** (and to say 99.9%—*as you will soon see*—is no exaggeration) of Christians have not done this! Following that biblical command, i.e. requiring scriptural proof for what we believe, is going to challenge a lot of sacred cows that do not stand up to truth. In that sense, the last day's topics in this book you will learn, are **valuable secrets** that have been *well hidden* within the confines of the confusion and deception of men's modern day church dogma.

In fact, most of these so-called prophecy experts and some not so expert, simply "don't know what they're talking about." I was astonished to find that Futurists and Preterists alike (which I know is a very broad statement) all hinge the bulk of their prophecies upon Zionist myths and cleverly devised fables. This may all sound a bit harsh, but in today's critical situation, there is no mild way to state that vitally needed truth. Titus 1:13-14 tells us we are to witness the truth, and "to rebuke sharply" that they may be sound in the faith, **not** giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men, that turn us from the truth. In other words, being sound in the faith should come before this approach of "let's all just get along or agree to disagree" attitude.

This confusion among the masses caused me to go into an in-depth, seven-year research in which I put nearly everything else in my life on hold. I then discovered a type of prophetic bridge that I realized most everyone had overlooked, which brought us right into the time of Rev 20:7-8 (*see back blurb on cover*) that actually verified this deception from a biblical standpoint! I know full well how extraordinary and unbelievable discovering new biblical truth all sounds, but also consider that Jesus thanked God for hiding things and God in the OT inspired the writer that He conceals and later reveals (Pro 25:2; Mat 10:26,11:25; Mar 4:22; 1Co 2:7), which means it has to be new to someone eventually. By the time you are finished with this book you will not only see these last days deceptions for yourself; but if you agree with the second argument, which is *replacing* the distortion you discard (the books first argument is *abandoning* the myth), you'll also be able to follow the biblical mandate to defend your positions (Jude 3-4; 1Pe 3:15; 2Ti 4:2,2:15; Mat 5:19) effectively with confidence (Heb 10:35).

Distortion can be defined as twisting, confusing, misrepresenting, perverting, falsifying; an alteration or change from the original for the worse. Think of a picture that has been so distorted with so many others' ideas injected into it that the authenticity of the original is no longer recognizable. That imaginative illustration will give you a good idea of the extent of distortion that has happened to Christianity, when compared to its 1st century beginnings. Jesus said only the unbiblical traditions of

men can negate the authority of the Word and grant the church or organization leadership supremacy (Mat 15:6, Mar 7:13). You may not have realized it, but Jesus strongly censured those who intentionally or unintentionally clung to man-made traditions in contrast to biblical teachings because those traditions lead people away from knowing the truth of God. This could even include a creed. Such **Sacred Cows** can be defined as "an idol" or anything unbiblical being clung to.

The Outline & How to Read this Book

We need to pause for a moment and summarize the layout and three (parts) of the book. Each part of this book works with "building upon" the previous part. There is a brief one or two sentence description of the goal of each part (i, ii, and iii) of the book right at the beginning of each section **in bold** to give the reader the primary objective. The book is written in the spoken language for easy reading, with Bible passages included **to save the reader time** from having to look up and verify each passage. Hence, you can study with one book instead of two. The table of contents and index can be used as reference tools. The index is supplied with common end-times keywords and phrases for you to look up and compare with your current understanding.

Each part (1, 2 and 3) of this book is a necessary prerequisite that provides a passage key to understand the next part—with a final climatic prophecy for our day. Though some may not fully comprehend the greatly misunderstood and debated thousand-year reign without first graduating from what was originally the 1st mythbusting topic in this book, on Satan. Regrettably, that topic had to be moved to Book 2—thus changing the original outline—for a couple reasons: (1) the book was too large for a wide audience, and (2) it proved, by feedback before its release, to be too controversial for some—the truth often is controversial. Therefore, Book 2 is now available as a separate volume – information on last page, after index.

Thus, we thought it was not really needed and best for people to grasp the importance and validity of Book 1 first. It was not a simple process to split the ideas presented in Book 1 into two distinct and separate volumes because the information in Book 2 will help some confirm their eschatology; but rest assured, this first book, even though the outline has now been changed, will give most enough information to fully grasp its content. Thus, you will see trinkets of the Satan/Devil/Demon topic that is now Book 2 (that were painstakingly aimed to be mostly removed) woven through a few places of the book, but that's okay because some of that knowledge will be helpful.

If someone were to jump right into part 3 of this book without graduating from the 1st issue, they might totally reject the valuable truth of the millennial reign disclosed in parts 2 and 3. If you are one who cannot fathom how someone can come along and tell you you need to change important doctrines you hold dear because you have been taught lies and distortions, cannot believe that so many for so long could be wrong, cannot believe we could discover new evidence others have not seen—then please start with the subtitle "Why would only a few have these valuable truths?" There the reader is given insight to the topics of deception covered with ten tangible "**reasons**" given for how this is possible.

The 3 MAJOR Topics in this 1st Volume of the Series

Please do not let “*the table of contents*” mislead you into thinking there are more! There are only **a few 'last days' topics** for us to stay focused on, so no one is overwhelmed; topics are marked in the header of each page pertaining to the one of three sections you are in. The *many subtitles* (associated with the 3 main topics or parts) in the table of contents, are necessary for referencing and emphasizing important messages that contribute. Other topics may arise (such as tithing, for instance) but only as they pertain to one of the main eschatological topics. **There are presently four volumes planned for the entire series, with one-to-three topics assigned to the volumes.** Each volume can be read alone or with the other books—though some (not everyone) may need additional information to substantiate their decision on the Satan/Demon topic briefed in Book 1 by reading Book 2. It is not necessary to read them all because each book is written on a topic-by-topic basis; only the topics assigned to the volume (book) need to be read together.

“Introduction” Part I is a necessary read to show the reader not only how this book must be read with some valuable insights making the other two parts of this book more cogent, but how to implement better study habits in the future, so we are no longer deceived. It prepares the reader (for the entire series) for a mindset susceptible for truth far different from what they have been taught.

- **1st major myth-busting topic (Part I) entitled “A BETTER BIBLE STUDY METHOD”** includes contrary to popular belief, we can find new evidence that presents biblical truth, and how most have *not been* noble (Acts 17:10-11) by following the admonition to be a Berean, proving all things before they adhere to a belief or doctrine (1Th 5:21, Rom 12:2 et al). Most have *not* considered that we need to change our practices, as far as our study methods are conceived. Much of the terminology we have grown accustomed to when reading the Bible is associated with premises we have heard repeated throughout our religious experience. This language usually evokes predictable responses without the prerequisite of critical thinking. This part will develop and prepare you by first finding out how you became deceived, then how you can make sure to never get there again by utilizing new improved Bible Study Methods along with heightened awareness and understanding of “last days” terms.
- **2nd major myth-busting topic (Part II) entitled “LAST DAYS DECEPTION”** is a step-by-step analysis of end-times theology, also known as **eschatology, i.e. the last days**, and demonstrates a type of prophetic nexus that dispensational Futurism and Preterism have both missed that allows *electrifying* prophecies to be extended into our day while still honoring ALL time statements! That’s quite a statement, considering how Preterism accuses anyone (like us) who does not say all prophecy has been fulfilled with the destruction of Jerusalem (AD70), of ignoring time-statements. Which leads into our next and last topic, which is really a continuum of the Last Days topic, but worthy of its own section.
- **3rd and last major myth-busting topic (Part III) entitled “The Present Day Invasion of Gog and Magog”** and is on the much misunderstood thousand(s) years and **Gog and Magog**, dispelling the erroneous understandings of *all* the millennialist ideas! It's hard to believe, but that's right *all*, that includes pre-millennialism (although the sequence of this one is

correct [except for the rapture—that is post,] the nature of it is not, which throws the timing completely off), postmillennialism, amillennialism, and whatever millennialism being taught. Then delves into **Gog of Magog and beyond**, as the Bible chronologically does (see Rev 20:8ff). Part III will have Preterists scratching their heads because of something resembling a “prophetic-bridge” relating to the so-called millennial reign (not a time gap) which does not violate any time statements and brings electrifying prophecy into and beyond our present-day! This will show the world that what is referred to as “the thousand year millennial reign of Christ” unmistakably began at the destruction of Jerusalem circa 70AD, and just recently ended in our day! The thousand-years (Gk. Word is not a literal thousand) of Revelation 20 is NOT “within” the 70 years the Bible refers to as the “last days” as Preterists assert, nor is it in our future as is being taught.

Sound impossible? See how it is not, and how this blindness happened because of our outrageously misunderstood meaning of “the Devil (touched on in this volume, but full exposition is for **Book 2**)” and “the thousand(s) years.” While the majority of Christians keep looking for the ANTI-CHRIST, you will see “the real state of our world and the true criminal syndicates—EXPOSED BY THE BIBLE ITSELF—behind it.” This will enable you to see the real picture the Bible paints; then the puzzle pieces will begin to just fall into place.

In this last 3rd section, we will also examine what we have learned, to see if we can make more sense of the world around us in light of what the Bible has taught us—not the other way around, so we cannot be accused of newspaper exegesis as some are guilty of. Part III also contains a compilation of excerpts and articles to help us decide if our analysis is correct. In other words, to see if we have enough biblical evidence to back up our analysis of current world events. Part III is riveting as we see prophecy unfold in our day right before our very eyes!

Why the Bible puts so much emphasis on Belief

God has always used humanity to bring revelation, and that's no assertion of being a prophet. The point is, one has to first “**believe**” revelation could come according to God's timing. Then be able to **believe** and admit that most could be wrong and that someone or some group could have it right because of God's timing to reveal. That is why I am certain the Bible puts such great emphasis on “**belief**,” because it is a prerequisite to learning anything! Not blind faith, but faith plus evidence. One of the first objective responses people will give is, “I don't *believe* that.”

“Belief/faith with works” discussed as a Torah principle.... Jas 2:21 Was not our father Abraham justified by works offering up his son Isaac on the altar? (cf. Gen 22:9)

Belief conferred with an OT example.... Jas 2:23 And the Scripture was fulfilled, saying, “And Abraham believed God, and it was counted for righteousness to him;” and he was called, Friend of God. (cf. Gen 15:6; Isa 41:8)

In reality, if you're acting from reason, any statement should warrant a “prove it” comeback. Now, if

the Bible or any book, for that matter, botched numerous things in it, such as contradictions, then told you to believe it – you should naturally be skeptical. "Validity" is the key word here and someone too credulous is often looked at as a non-critical thinker. Therefore, belief is ultimately earned through validation (i.e. evidence). We believers should go through the same process to arrive at truth. A real Christian is guided by good exegesis and reason, not emotional attachment and majority opinion.

When testing our preconceived beliefs, the hard part for many is questioning those scholars that we respect. In that regard, what if we're told biblical truth, but cannot **believe** it, because it is so different from what *we thought* was true? Such unbelief can cause the deceptive epidemic we have today. In light of that, before we get to some incredibly exciting revelations for our time, I'd like to submit a few passages on the place of this important prerequisite to learning, with **boldfaced** emphasis regarding "**Belief**" in scripture:

Heb 3:12,18-19 **See, brethren, lest there shall be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in the falling away from the living God,...and to whom did He swear that they shall not enter into His rest, except to **those who did not believe**? And we see that **they were not able to enter in because of unbelief**.**

Mat 21:32 For **John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and you believed him not; but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when you saw it, did not even repent yourselves afterward, that you might believe him**.

Pro 14:6 **A scoffer seeks wisdom, and finds it not;** But knowledge is easy unto him that hath understanding.

Act 13:39 And everyone **BELIEVING** in this One is justified from all things which you could not be justified by the Law of Moses. (Justified in Christ – not in Moses, but again not blind faith)

Unbelief can also show hardness of heart (such as denying truth) in spite of the evidence shown. This book is designed to first tear down unreasonable biases and even self-deception that leads to defending unbiblical traditions of and by men; then we are able to get into some really thrilling parts.

Throughout history, strong orators have been able to make a case against any theory – cases that must be analyzed for their core truths. Statistics can be manipulated to reflect almost anything the statistician desires. Misguided theologians have taken single Bible verses out of context and built religions. Around 26,000 denominations—some teaching mutually exclusive things—are proof of that. The only fact is that feelings are not facts. Facts are arguments that have been scrutinized by many and replicated scripturally. If the progression of arguments is real and significant, they will be able to stand up to rigorous objections. Nevertheless, it appears that now God's time to disprove false theories has come! My editor cautioned me to watch the exclamation points, but how often can someone say things of this magnitude? One would have to be dead to not get excited. God has given me a unique task, to enrich the lives of others by exposing these Christian myths.

The Bible, when one understands the history of Israel—which most have shown they do not—hands down IS the greatest love story ever told and an exciting prophetic thriller of unimaginable plotting and evil with ultimate good as the victor, all wrapped up in one! It has been my duty to complete this first volume of this series. It will be your duty to see what becomes of it.

Once you have gotten into the three biblical topics, this book presents, you quite possibly will find

yourself asking, “Where could the church’s methodology and study methods have gone *so awry?!?”* You will discover that what most of us have been taught is religious tradition *defiant* to Biblical truth! You will be provided with knowledge that has the power to, dismantle and change someone's belief-system to a biblical Christianity (one with real answers most have not heard) and even unmask false religions in the process! In light of that, unlocking this knowledge will unmistakably expose religions that are forgeries of the Christian Bible.

Why “every Christian” and “every truth-loving person” needs to read this book.

In short, because there is really nothing like this book out there that provides a biblical exposé with the information required to debunk these Christian Myths held dear as essentials—*nowhere*. I would have never bothered to spend about seven years researching with over three and a half years writing Massive Deceptions if it did not offer a radical departure from previous books on these subjects, with hundreds of pages of fresh and startling information. After combing exhaustive libraries on and offline, this book is the dossier that makes the strongest and most effective case against these hotly debated 'end times' topics.

Many (as a marketing ploy,) are asserting they have something different and unique, but when you examine their books, you find more of the same with maybe a minor modification and a different twist on it. **The claim here, in the 3 header topics that this first volume presents, is that 99.9% of Christianity believes and teaches paradigms radically different from what the Bible actually teaches.** There are no other known books on these topics that deals correctly with these important issues. Most would not touch them with a 20-foot pole! Not because of the topics themselves, but because the true controversial nature of the topics that has either been missed or purposely neglected. The challenge consists of impressing upon people how profound and unique this extensively researched information is. I understand that is an astounding claim, but Part 2 of the three topics in this volume alone, should reveal that fact. The other two topics will be sure to convince even more.

This book exposes the fact that, modern Christianity has, in many ways, been forced into man-made traditional boxes. There is a pharisaical attitude within the body of believers putting a stranglehold on the Church, keeping out revelation of biblical-light. The reformation may have started in the 16th century but never entirely got us out of the Dark Ages of several unbiblical traditions; for many reasons observable to the *thinking person*. The person willing to think outside these traditionalist boxes. This person is, more often than not shunned, ridiculed and rejected as unorthodox. This reformation set the spark in the middle ages that became a beacon of inspiration capturing the hope and imaginations of Bible believing Christians everywhere at that time. The information in this book has the potential to spark a new reformation, one with the capability to free us from these unbiblical traditions that caused the dark ages. That's no exaggeration or hype, we have struck it rich, we when these mysterious truths were discovered and you because now they're going to be shared with you—it certainly appears that God is doing something great in our time!

To the “truth-loving” non-Christians, or those who may be sitting on the fence *considering* Christianity, those people want and need to have **real answers** (1Pet3:15, 1Ti6:12). They know that *any* religion can produce kind, courteous and law-abiding citizens. Many are curious why Jesus is widely accepted as the Messiah and Savior, they just don't see how. Maybe because of their

upbringing, maybe because of contradictions they allegedly see that this series provides answers to. To the how and why Jesus is the Messiah and Savior predicted in the Torah, talked about in the Koran, etc. This book-series will demonstrate that the 66 books comprised in the Old and NT what we call the Bible, **is** the Word of God. The problem is, what many have “heard” about the Bible that is unbiblical.

The world is analyzing Christianity in many ways, some just to criticize as in much of atheism; others are actually looking for the tough answers that have not been provided by Christians. *In this overwhelming information age, we as believers need, more than ever, to be equipped with answers from the book we profess.* What is described in this book affects everyone, and will enable Christians to prepare for and prevent dreadful things from happening to family and friends, near term, such as being led astray with the wrong evangelical group in these turbulent times we live in. In other words, wake up the sheep to some startling truths.

Getting into each myth-busting topic presented in this book, many will discover that Christianity as a whole today, with its current belief systems, is in a hopeless state of confusion unless there is a serious awakening. Religious belief systems are more closely linked to other aspects of thinking than many realize. A belief system in many ways defines a person—beliefs and ideas have consequences—our belief systems determine what we do. The distortions exposed in this book are a prime example of what happens when a wrong belief begins to take root like stubborn weeds that won’t go away.

One example is explained in the gravely misunderstood area of prophecy, despite it being probably the hottest topic in theology today. It is the contention here that the prophetic blueprint is summed-up in the book of Genesis, but that is for Book 3. The consequences can be as significant as the case of the New Jersey couple who, the New York Times reported, stopped saving for their children's college education because they believed Camping's prophecy; or they can be potentially catastrophic, as in the hope among evangelical and fundamentalist Christians that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will devolve into warfare and bring on the apocalypse. Another recent example is a Reverend who tragically lost his wife to what he believes to be caused by demon possession, but sounds like foul play. He refuses to look to other explanations, good but not full explanations others are suggesting; literally making it easier for the real perpetrators to weasel out of this horrendous crime.

Besides the effects these erroneous beliefs have on a person’s worldview, they also cause a snowball effect that poisons other reasoning and conclusions in scripture. Eventually, incorrect conclusions begin to be promoted as truth, and before you know it, we have the avalanche of deception we have today. When the blinders begin to be lifted, the replacement of powerful biblical concepts fused with practical actions can drive profound change in our thinking.

Unless Christians wake up and actually get into the Bible to see what it really has to say, they will quite soon be in a world of hurt almost beyond comprehension. These warnings are not prophetic words; all one has to do is open their eyes and look around. Our world is standing on a three-legged stool about to collapse. Those legs representing the political, religious, and economical world; some of those legs are already badly damaged (the religious, which many will see is even affecting the next two), another is the economic (many economists claim is beyond repair—the compelling need to bail out financial institutions, stimulate the economy, redeem toxic bonds, predatory loan practices that have resulted in many

dishonest foreclosures, the over-inflated dollar, out-of-control deficits, etc. already a reality), and this three legged stool is about to come crashing down—some of this is not news to many.

Many may be wondering, "How could this really be that 99.9% are wrong?" Maybe even saying, "I'll stick with years of tradition," or "I'll go with what most Biblical scholars, especially the famous ones say, over the claims made in this book." It may be a surprise to find, however, that renowned scholars are just as fallible, sometimes *more prone* than others to a consumer-oriented Christianity that takes things for granted. These scholars are under mountains of influence with their busy schedules, formal indoctrination and their positions at work are often precluded from investigating allegations of deception in Christian teachings—for them 'deception' is anything that disagrees with their own thinking! Furthermore, when scholarly leaders swallow what they have heard because it sounds good, trusting the universities where they studied rather than checking the facts for themselves (even though most think they have); they put *their trust* in the wrong sources. In other words, a person that does not know they are deceived and thinks they have the answers, does not search for answers and often is not willing to go against the *orthodoxy* of their organization. The Biblical Research Foundation expresses this well...

The study of the Bible is often fraught with preconceptions, not only in our own minds but also in the minds of scholars, teachers and theologians who teach us and write the reference material that we rely on. Concepts can be so entrenched and cherished that no one even thinks to question them. Many such notions have been around for centuries or millenia [sic] and they seem to be a part of the very foundation on which we base our beliefs. Sometimes they do not stand up to close scrutiny. Unfortunately, such ideas can conceal the most sublime insights into the scriptures.

Source ~ Wayne Simpson Distributed by the Biblical Research Foundation

The Books Front Cover Explained. Please think of the title and subtitles for a moment: "Massive Deceptions in Christianity", "Exposing Myths & Sacrificing Sacred Cows on the Altar of Truth", "The Christian MythBuster Series". Those titles, as are the graphics on the cover, are meant to be a profound wake up call to Christians everywhere that the diets they have been consuming are malnourishing at best and poisonous at worst. To give answers and hope that have not been adequately provided; that Christianity has more viable answers than what they have heard, and thus turning their darkness into light for others to see.

This book was almost titled "I Found Out – Amazing Biblical Discoveries" but was decided that title lacked profundity for the magnitude, "MASSIVE" in scope and quantity statistically speaking, in terms of numbers of people, institutions and essential doctrines of deceptions it exposes...

There is an old saying that states, "you cannot tell a book by its cover." With this book's cover, we've been told never before has this ever been proven **less** true. The cover of this book sends a graphic message, of the deception the Christian church finds itself in the 21st century. The wolf's eyes on the cover are a depiction of the dangers and subtleties' of deception, which is also why "the wolf's eyes" were subtly placed **in** the word **deception**—sneakily honing in as ready to pounce on its victim. The "magnifying glass" illustrates the extensive *scrutiny* (thousands of hours), and research that went into identifying then *exposing* these deceptive myths along with, in some cases, who is responsible. Besides the word "myths" in the subtitle, "sacred cows" was decided, to depict the attitude of some

that are *clinging* to idolatrous teachings and as in old covenant times, that cow (golden calf) needs to be sacrificed, by the modern churches, on the altar of truth. The phrase "Jewish Fables" (now taken out) is sometimes used, and taken from Tit 1:14 "not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men who turn away from the truth." to alert Christians and our Jewish brethren to these things. The title "**Massive Deceptions** in Modern Christianity" was to hopefully alert people to the magnitude of deception in Christianity that has affected us all.

You cannot always warn and prevent without sometimes naming perpetrators, something almost absent in Christianity today—besides blaming the devil. Jesus said in Mat 10:16a He sent us out as sheep in the midst of wolves—there is nothing scarier than that! What could be more frightening than a helpless lamb in the midst of ravenous wolves—right? Deceptions are supposed to be scary—for good reason—they are enslaving, they lead us astray, they are harmful and can be fatal to our existence. Many have heard the expression "the ugly truth" and it can take on that form because of the carnal nature of humankind, not the nature of God as atheists misrepresent the Bible. Jesus and the Apostles also exposed (even identifying names) those that defied the truth they brought. If we do not identify enemies of Christianity, even when it involves identifying races of peoples involved in crimes against the Christian way, we are merely shadowboxing with words and are tap-dancing around issues. Truth and justice can be harsh and demanding, but it is still in everyone's best interest. The Bible says love protects and therefore warns, that is why the book's cover was designed to look the way it does—to get people's attention and hopefully wake them up.

The Back Cover. There are a few things that should be pointed out on the back cover (some of this content now moved to inside the book for space – sake) of the book. Largest paragraph, between the line art, before the bullet points: ..."then explains why biblical truths are being revealed in our day." was an important marketing strategy to truthfully demonstrate that the finds in this book are not as much about individual intellect, as it is to alert the reader of *what appears to be God* (because of His time-table plan, use of the internet and many free-resources among many other reasons shown in the book) **that is doing the revealing in our day, if one would only search His Word.**

Attempts by some, to pigeonhole and turn their backs on Preterism is the reason for the wording on the back cover starting with the third bullet point, "Proper Preterism" (key word being *proper*), showing this form of Preterism is **not** the more popular full or partial Preterism and that "all things" were **not** fulfilled ca. 70AD. Also to show that this form of Preterism answers questions in regards to the state of our world: "electrifying prophecy already underway". The next bullet point: "a missed type of prophetic-nexus (explained in Pt. 3) that honors all time-statements" is to show Preterists that passages such as Luke 21:22 and others like it, are not being overlooked. Preterism is a key to unlocking not only prophecy but also the *much misunderstood* "history of Israel" (and vice-versa, the OT history of Israel unlocks a proper form of Preterism) in the OT and beyond, all the way into our day. Preterism is a fundamental beginning, an important key; it's a prerequisite to learning—by no means an end all. The rest of the back-cover is pretty self-explanatory.

Important Prerequisites before Reading this Book & the Characters

Merriam-Webster provides synonyms of "**deception**" as: artifice, cheating, craftiness, cunningness, deceitfulness, dishonesty, dupery, foxiness, fraud, guile,...Dictionary.com defines "**deception**" as: deceit - fraud - delusion - cheat - trickery, to mislead by deliberate misrepresentation

or lies. The Bible defines "**deception**" also as darkness: "The light shined in the darkness; and the darkness apprehended it not; and this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." Some would actually rather cling to darkness; it may not be so amazing that sometimes we favor the drives of the flesh, but the incredible thing is some will actually cling to the **deception** (as will be shown) and reject the truth in favor of a distortion, than admit being wrong!

Deception and Myth disguised as biblical truth are big reasons for the assault on Christianity today; such as the attack from the militant Muslim and Atheist communities being experienced. As they assert that our book, the Bible, is full of contradictions and lies. Not being equipped to defy their nonsensical arguments gives the church a bad reputation, because the church is supposed to have answers to false accusations and be a light to the world. Light(truth and righteousness) exposes darkness (deception, evil, lies); just as turning on a light switch, darkness metaphorically flees, so does knowledge of truth expose evil deeds and lies.

Only how can Christians be a light to the world when they themselves are in the dark? That darkness comes in another form of "deception and distortion" by showing the "unfaithful approach that has been taken to God's Word", i.e. infidelity and recklessness with His Word. Though God has said He "has magnified His Word above all His name", this book will show that most have not known His Word and therefore have been unfaithful to it (Psa 138:2b). Getting us back to real, classic, authentic Christianity is going to set *all who embrace* it free, but first the bonds of deception need to be shaken—which is the first argument of this book. Then, the deception can be replaced, with a clearer head, renewed vigor and the freedom to think of more biblically plausible replacements—second argument of the book. The replacement of the error is not the first and foremost argument of this book, exposing the myth and *how* we came to accept the myth as biblical is.

Prevalent forms of the **deception** occurring is not usually self-induced—but comes from the persuasion of group orthodoxy, which is tantamount to *brainwashing*, seldom intentional, but always devastating. Margaret Singer, Ph.D. wrote, "Just as most soldiers believe bullets will hit only others, not themselves, most citizens like to think that their own minds and thought processes are invulnerable. 'Other people can be manipulated, but not me,' they declare." Of course, a person that is brainwashed or deceived does not know they are deceived or they would not be deceived—right?

Dictionary.com defines "brainwashing" as any method of controlled systematic indoctrination, especially one based on repetition or confusion, e.g. brainwashing by TV commercials, propaganda, coercive persuasion, influence, mental manipulation, etc. In psychology, the study of brainwashing, often referred to as thought reform, falls into the sphere of "social influence." Social influence happens every minute of every day. It's the collection of ways in which people can change other people's attitudes, beliefs and behaviors. Jesus said that only truth can set a person free from this type of bondage and He was a representative of truth (Gods' Word). Brainwashing can be against a person's will or someone can be willingly brainwashed with propaganda thinking it is biblical, not knowing they are being deceived by people and organizations they've trusted—such as the church's Pastor, Rabbi's, Seminarians and others.

The Bible has much to say about **deception**. When the disciples asked Jesus the when and what of His coming reign, the first admonition from Him was "... Take heed that no man **deceive** you: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall **deceive** many." Deception was first and

foremost on Jesus' mind because He knew **if** they would be deceived they could be led into almost any path of error in contrast to what He taught them, and that is what has happened to the 21st century church. (Mat 24:4-5, Mar 13:5-6 KJV)

The Apostle Paul, in this dire situation, gave this positive, encouraging admonishment: "Holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayers. For there are many unruly men, vain talkers and **deceivers**, especially they of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped; men who overthrow whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."¹ Here the gainsaying teachers were primarily responsible, opposing, disagreeing with the truth, and clinging to their traditions, for the sake of their paychecks and lack of appreciation for the truth. (Tit 1:9-11)¹

Deception inflicts God's anger: "Let no man **deceive** you with empty words; for because of these things comes 'the wrath of God' upon the sons of disobedience."¹ "We are told we can deceive ourselves and are warned against it: "Let no man **deceive** himself."² "For many **deceivers** are gone forth into the world, even they that confess not that Jesus Christ comes in the flesh. This is the **deceiver** and antichrist."³ "The Apostle Paul and Timothy command us not to be deceived in *any manner*: "Let not any one **deceive** you in any manner..."⁴ The vital concept of avoiding and removing ourselves from a deceptive state are unmistakably made clear by these and other passages. (Eph 5:6)¹ (1Co 3:18a KJV)² (2Jn 1:7)³ (2Th 2:3a)⁴

With all that said, are you among the many content to base your beliefs on the alleged blessed-assurance of the many Christians today who just "slap the name of Jesus Christ on *whatever* they believe" and that becomes their supposed "Good-Housekeeping Seal of Approval?" Or do you want to know the truth, even if it goes against what you've been taught? Think of it this way: We cannot change the truth, so we might as well know it, no matter what it is—right? What's at stake here is something much bigger than you and I, bigger than our pride, bigger than our friends and family, bigger than our personal images, bigger than our traditions, bigger than our denominations, bigger than our orthodoxies, bigger than our comfort zones, bigger than our insecurities, bigger than our incomes and status. What is at stake here is **TRUTH**.

Truth we will define as fact and reality; this book asserts the God of the Bible as the author of **truth**, many truths of which we have not yet discovered. It is crucially important for us to become educated in reality, and not in blindness. Wrong understandings leads to go against God's will, Christian Zionism is only one example. Only through better understanding can our personal decisions coincide with God's will. His Word declares on the topic: "And the woman said to Elijah, now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of Jehovah in your mouth is **truth**."¹ "The sum of your word is **truth**; And every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever."² "Sanctify them in the **truth**: your word is **truth**."³ As Christians, we must search out **Truth**, stick to it like glue, then share it at all cost. The love of **truth** in scripture is equated with salvation⁴—so it is no small matter. (1Ki 17:24¹, Psa 119:160², IV gospel 17:17³, 2Th 2:10b⁴)

This book presents the reader with the claim that lack of biblical Knowledge and Truth, much caused from reckless study methods, pride, wrong priorities, lazily/carelessly putting our trust in men and infidelity to God's Word are largely responsible for "the deceptive state" Christianity is presently in. Jesus said KNOW (knowledge) the truth and

the truth will make you free. Many Christians run on blind faith, what they've been taught and emotionalism, i.e. infidelity to God's Word.

"He [Jesus] spoke also a parable unto them; Can the blind guide the blind? Shall they not both fall into a pit?¹" "For you were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord: walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth).²" The Bible states (please look at the *italicized* and **bold list..diligence, faith, etc.** of spiritual qualities in this coming passage) that they who do not have **knowledge** of God's Word are blind.

"...Seeing it is God, that said, **Light shall shine out of darkness**, who shined in our hearts, to give **the light of the knowledge** of the glory of God in the face (appearance) of Jesus Christ.³" "Yea, and for this very cause adding on your part all *diligence*, in your *faith* supply *virtue*; and in your *virtue* **knowledge**; for if these things are yours and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful unto the **knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ...**For he that lacks these things IS "BLIND"**..."⁴" (Luke 6:39¹, Eph 5:8, 9², 2Co 4:6³) (2Pe 1:5,8,9a⁴;))

How can Christians fight the good fight, and defend the faith effectually without being equipped with answers, i.e. **blind** to the **knowledge** of the book they profess? Without knowledge of the Bible they are "blind guides" *no matter how good their intentions or passions*. When Jesus said they would know you by your love for one another, which separated them from others, it wasn't what usually brought converts¹. **They had to be taught from the scriptures, especially in this information age we live in now answers are needed.** The lazy servant, sleepers, the lukewarm, foolish virgins were **all believers** but never favored by Jesus—in fact, He spewed some out and shut the door on others²! Sobering thoughts, but many are falsely settling on their alleged blessed-assurance, and need to get into the Word. **Zeal** comes from **knowledge** of God's Word, which leads to **love of the truth**. (Mat 21:42, 22:29, 26:54; Mar 12:24; Luk 24:27; Acts 17:2 et al)¹(Rev 3:16, Mat 25:10)²

More Benefits of What this book will do for Christianity

This book was designed to *enlighten* the reader to the freedom and opportunity of being restored to the faith once delivered to the saints. Not because it has all the answers, but because once the deceptive stranglehold that has ensnared is realized, then someone is alerted to be on guard in their study methods. In addition, the elimination of the myth bringing us that much closer to the truth. Explaining the results of the deceptions revealed in this book were devised to also enable the reader to see an amazingly vivid depiction of our current state of affairs. When the pieces of the puzzle come together and form a picture, it begins to all make sense. Again, the twofold argument, first exposing the biblical inconsistencies of the deception which includes the process of elimination, second a more plausible replacement for what you decide to eliminate, offers this path of recovery toward truth and light. God admonishes, Christians as a people for His own possession... "That you may show forth the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (Joh 1:5, 3:19; 1Pe 2:9b)

This series will *inspire* Christians to start continually thinking for themselves in spite of what they've been indoctrinated with for years, in some cases decades, to be asking the important question, **"Does this harmonize with scripture across the board?"** Discovering all the fallacy being perpetuated as Biblical truth really alerts someone, that *the Bible is best read with your own eyes*,

preferably open. I found out (and so will you) the Bible is an "assume no hearsay" book.

- Just as Christ brought a movement, His movement may be re-emerging. Not as a list of demands or temporary reform, but real Christianity whose time has come according to God's timetable, as certain prophecies seem to indicate, as will be shown in the Parts 2 & 3 – you decide.
- This series will debunk biblically unwarranted superstitions and fears that most Christians erroneously, but fervently embrace as biblical.
- Did you know someone is in the most danger when they do not know they are sick? Also, that acknowledging the illness is the first step to recovery? The patient Christianity is very ill right now, being fed a steady diet of fluff and deception, and most do not even realize it. This series (at least 3 more volumes in the works) is to revive the patient back to its strong, healthy condition as it was in the 1st century and is to create more "hope" for the most important philosophical ideology that has always made the difference in the world when allowed to flourish—REAL CHRISTIANITY.
- This book *names* the sources of the enemies of Christianity that hinder its recovery and growth, but will be dealt with by God in a far different manner than the churches teach. Did you know that much of that "naming" of individuals and groups (while standing up for biblical truth) are what brings the inevitable persecution (like being called racist or labeled in another way) that Jesus told his followers they would receive if they followed him? Sometimes anything less is cowardice and lukewarm (do we find ways to say things to pacify men or do we speak the full truth – as the Bible declares it – and obey God?). The new pseudo-virtue "tolerance" has created an anything goes society. If it is so evil to be intolerant, than why isn't it in this list: Without (the kingdom of God) are the dogs, and the sorcerers, and the fornicators, and the murderers, and the idolaters, and every one that loveth and maketh a lie (Rev 22:15)? Of course, we want to judge people according to their fruits (Mat 7:6, 16 et al) and I suggest we be not hasty in our conclusions, but this new virtue is not being used as a virtue, but as a license to kill and steal, so to speak. **Do note, when the Bible does identify God's enemies, it (the Bible) always opens a door for individuals of those adversarial groups towards God to repent and be saved.** There is darkness all around us right now, and the light is very dim. When that light (Christianity) is shining in its brightness again, it will expose that darkness for what it is and the world will be shocked!
- This series will provide clarity into what the world wants and needs, while giving us all an opportunity for "real hope" that does not depend on the elite politicians and financial institutions for that change that many are looking to.

The Characters

Throughout this book, the characters used in the issues and topics that will be covered, are represented with input from our "District Attorney", aka "Devil's Advocate" initials D.A. sometimes in a courtroom setting. He is usually defiant and making a case for traditional orthodox Christianity. Our D.A. received his bachelors in law from Harvard as well as his master's degree in theology from Masters Divinity. Cross-examinations for closing arguments include another DA the "defense attorney." Second is "Joshua Bradshaw" initials J.B. (who is our Christian MythBuster) and works as a court reporter, journalist research investigator and has a working relationship with our D.A.

The characters are helpful in setting the stage for a debate, in an effort to get you, the reader, to evaluate the issue from other perspectives in everyday language, drawing your own conclusions. Lighter arguments seldom because, the claims in this book are well researched, debated, and comprehensive enough to withstand arguments from even the most cynical of critics—this is not implying they are not open to new debate. The characters are primarily designed to help you, consider both sides, but not eliminate any other conclusions you may arrive at. **They are to help you decide Bible fact or fallacy beyond a reasonable doubt.**

The characters are also useful for deciding on the closing arguments in Part II. In Part III they are principally to bring up different sides of the arguments. They are not to thicken the plot, nor to build fallacious arguments not germane to the topic at hand; this book was not written as a fictional thriller. It is to promote biblical understanding while exposing myths that are being clung to as biblical truths. It has been said however, to be *a real life thriller*, beyond anything fiction could produce and the last part has had those who read the manuscript on the edge of their seat.

The Bible when **not** read in “principle mobiles” as it usually is, has a thick enough plot that is exciting and riveting on its own—it needs no help. If you're looking for a book with **substance**, a book that has been extensively researched with thousands of hours of real study and care, without parroting the usual regurgitated beliefs—you've come to the right place.

HOLY-INSPIRED?

*"There is a small Christian revolution going on, a mass awakening that is going to make the great reformation look like a mild disagreement."
- John Anderson "The Voice of Reason Radio"*

*"They must find it difficult... Those who've taken authority as the truth, rather than truth as the authority"
-G. Massey*

Just to inform, this is **not** some extraordinary claim of one to be endowed with the Holy Spirit as the Apostles were; there are no Holy-inspired people today (not like 1st century saints and prophets, and for good reason as will be demonstrated), only some that are closer to God, more learned and better studied than others. This is not to say we do not have the Holy Spirit—that is not a contradiction. If Christians today are Holy-inspired then why do so many believe mutually exclusive teachings that contradict, yet they *all* claim to be Holy-inspired? The Word (the Bible) *is* Holy-inspired, and is profitable to correct and to reprove (2 Tim 3:15-16), to those that will let it. General revelation and special revelation are still equally true. But if any claim to be Holy-inspired like the first century apostles, that should be a signal to run the other way—we've all seen what those kinds produce. There are only perspectives, some more valuable than others because they are researched; some better researched than others. I aspire it would be safe to say that if your opinion squares with scripture and no one can shoot it down, then it is no longer your opinion, but Biblical truth.

The last Holy-inspired (like the examples in the Bible) individual however, died almost 2000 years ago. Now the scriptures in the original manuscripts are Holy-inspired and alive Heb 4:12 which is what we have for the most part today and is quite different from what first century apostles had, as we will soon touch on. Maybe I should say no one is "**wholly** inspired" but anyone making a special claim we should be skeptical of because times are different; God had His plan for the 1st century saints and His plan for us now (does not mean God changes but His plan is not always the same) which is different in that particular respect. Yes, He does reveal through His written word to those that are willing to study and listen. But, this "I've been Holy-inspired to believe this" attitude can lead into tyranny in the church if the pastor or whoever claims to have been inspired by the Holy Spirit to understand, that leaves us all at an impasse. Now we can no longer reason in the scriptures and continue to learn because how dare anyone question what or who was inspired by the Holy Spirit!

We might ask: "Can't only those that are called out come to or be drawn by the Father to Christ and are therefore Holy-inspired like the Apostles were?" and this is a legitimate question. I mean we have to have our minds open to understanding since the carnal mind cannot comprehend the things of God, right? Rev 22:17 says something different i.e. now open to anyone *who will*, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And the one hearing, let him say, Come! And the one thirsting, let him come; and the one desiring, let him take of the water of life freely." anyone or "whoever will (i.e. His sheep KJV)" come, anyone thirsting, desiring, seeking Mat 7:7, lovers of the truth 2 Thess 2:10, 1Co 13:10 and so on.

Also notice in Acts 17:11 Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so.

That verse and passage connotes no special revelation or Holy inspiration to a special group - what it does convey is those Thessalonians were eager and open minded, with the scriptures as their basis, and thus they understood. So, how does God draw us to Him through Christ? Is it only through the kind of Holy inspiration the Apostles in the first century had?

Also God is a rewarder to those who believe and diligently seek Him desiring His will to be done. Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please God. For it is right that the one drawing near to God should believe that He is, and that He becomes a rewarder to the ones seeking Him out. It is different now than before Jesus ascended because it is not only to the called out 12 tribes of Israel that were set apart and sanctified before their ingathering ca. AD30-70, but now to the Gentiles (and not all Gentiles or of the nations were of Israel genealogy either, to those Israel identity groups out there) as well.

The Holy Spirit conveys **power**, if we are to look at it in the same sense as the first century Apostles were imbued. A rush of wind at Pentecost with tongue fired cloves upon their heads, while speaking different native languages. How often do you see that today? You might see counterfeits and quacks doing bizarre things such as out-of-control laughing, being slain for no apparent reason and gibberish speech that is not done in a native tongue with usually no interpreter. This is blasphemy toward the Holy Spirit, reaps no benefits to those witnessing and is a big sham. Some people are searching for truth; a lot of people are looking for meaning, while many people are looking for spirituality and feelings. Many Christians don't want to think but just believe and feel, then look to the scholars and follow their methodology. We are to study, being diligent to be approved 2 Tim 2:15, the word disciple means student. We today are not supposed to disconnect our psyche from our spiritual understanding and look for a revivalist experience or feeling, to try and validate what we believe is truth. A counterfeit revival replacing the true knowledge of God, those people need to put in some long hard hours of biblical study and to examine their motives. All they would have to do is read Acts 2:15-21 which says these gifts were given to those in the last days. My question to you is, the last days of what? It was the last days of the old Mosaic Jewish system which ended almost 2000 years ago (with "**emphasis**"):

Act 2:15-21 For these are not drunk, as you imagine, for it is the third hour of the day.¹⁶ But this is that which has been **spoken by the prophet Joel**,¹⁷ "And it shall be" in the last days, God says, "I will pour from My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy;" "and your young men shall see visions," "and your old men shall dream dreams;"¹⁸ "and also I will pour out My Spirit on My slaves and slave women in those days," and they shall prophesy.¹⁹ "And I will give wonders in the heaven above," and miraculous signs "on the earth below, blood and fire and vapor of smoke."²⁰ The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the "coming of the great and glorious **day of the Lord**."²¹ "And it shall be that everyone who shall call on the name of the Lord will be saved." **(cf.) Joel 2:28-30 Here it is:**

Joe 2:28-30 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:29 and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit. 30 And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

We are no longer in those biblical *last days*. This does not mean all prophecy was fulfilled, but those gifts ended when the last days ended because it did not say they would carry over *past* the last days. And it makes sense when you consider they did not yet have the NT as we do, it was being written and they had what seemed to many like a new religion to get out (seemed to them, but was not). They also needed the Holy Spirit to write the NT, another commission not given to us, this is why audience relevance becomes so important that we don't confuse the scriptures any more than they already have been. So like Christ they were going to portray miracles to help people believe and to celebrate the victory of Christ and His *soon* coming kingdom, which came around circa 70AD. If anyone has the Holy Spirit today as the first century believers did, I would like to visit them and have them come with me to the cancer wards and start sending people home one by one, that's not even asking them to resurrect a dead person (this also does not imply God has stopped doing miracles because He is a living God and does what He wants). That does not doubt in any way that God answers prayers today, the difference is His purpose and mission is different for our time. Now it is a matter if He decides to intervene in someone's life, then (first century) it was a sure thing. I just hate to see people deceived in this way, even by some con-artists that tell Christians they are not practicing faith if they take their diabetic daughter to the hospital for insulin treatments. Then they don't take her, she ends up having seizures before going into a coma and then dies. Dr. John MacArthur during one of his messages, and I'm paraphrasing, said he waits for the Holy Spirit to inspire him on what to say in time of tribulation, then sometimes will look back to what he had said and think to himself wow! He was referencing:

Mar 13:11 `And when they may lead you, delivering up, be not anxious beforehand what ye may speak, nor premeditate, but whatever may be given to you in that hour, that speak ye, for it is not ye who are speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

I wonder if he follows instruction on verse 11 in that same passage that says not to even premeditate or give thought on what you will say. The same account on this passage in Mat 24 clearly states the setting is in the Greek word for world *oikoumene* the inhabited Roman world, not the USA or Brazil. The other Greek word *ethnos* used for nations is also used for Gentiles and was to reach them with the gospel alluding to the adjacent countries of the Roman world. Also those in Judea should flee to the mountains because it is a localized event, "then those in Judea, let them flee to the mountains". Again ignoring *audience relevance* and promulgating his own confusion to others, but that's what everyone including scholars do, they regurgitate the same thing that's been regurgitated to them maybe just in a different format to try and make it interesting. It also speaks to the book of Daniel of the Abomination of Desolation being fulfilled at that time which would have had to be fulfilled while the 2nd temple was still in existence. We will touch on the book of Daniel mostly in our section Last Days Deception; it was a first century fulfillment with the prophecy of the rock extending into our day.

Another church I attended, the pastor would confirm truth by what he thought the Holy Spirit was

telling him. He and some of his peers had been confronted with a few controversial topics by some outsider attendee's that caused some heated debate at a Holy Spirit conference he was attending. He said some of the other pastors were arguing and even getting angry with this guy because the guy claimed he understood their view of God's omniscience wasn't quite accurate. The guy's assertion was that God *is* all-knowing in the sense of what can be known, not what cannot be known and that God did not know everything you were going to do on any given day. The pastor said, in the guys' opinion that did not make God the bad guy then, when people did wrong. The pastor then went on to say that the Holy Spirit later led him to believe the guy asserting God only knew what could be pre-known - was wrong. The pastor felt he did not have to back that up scripturally I guess. Wait a minute, I thought to myself, if that was the way we should arrive at truth today then the Holy Spirit would have to be schizophrenic, I mean with all the different views from all these Christians from all these different churches all claiming to be Holy-inspired! Something here does not add up. This kind of thinking actually substitutes deep study and thinking for some and in my judgment is a big part of the confusion today.

Continued.... If people today are "raised up by the quickening spirit" then where is the miraculous evidence that always accompanied the "holy spirit" during the apostolic era (Acts 2:17; Galatians 3:5; Hebrews 6:5, etc.)?

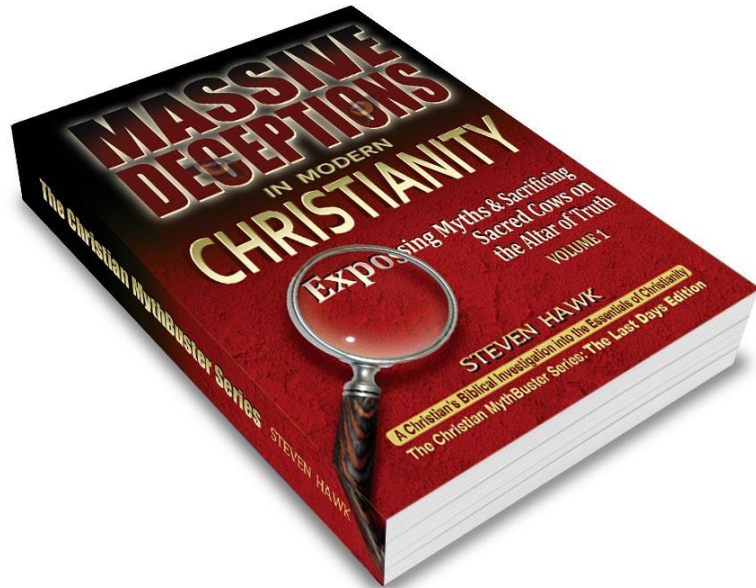
1Co 13:8 Charity never faileth: but whether there **be prophecies, they shall fail;** whether there be **tongues, they shall cease;** whether there be **knowledge, it shall vanish away.** 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But **when that which is perfect (perfect = "consummation" at end of war in Daniel 9) is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.....** 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but **THEN FACE TO FACE:** now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity (love).

IV gospel 16:16 A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, **because I go to the Father.** (*JOHN 20:17 Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father:)*¹⁹ Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye inquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? ²⁰ Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. ²¹ **A WOMAN WHEN SHE IS IN TRAVAIL** (*REV 12; & ISAIAH 66:8. Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.....* ²² **For as the new heavens and the new earth,** *which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain.)* hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. ²² And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. ²³ And **in that day** ye shall ask me nothing. ²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but **the time cometh, when** I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but **I SHALL SHEW YOU PLAINLY OF THE FATHER.** ²⁶ **At that day** ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

The context is all the same, the return of Christ, aka The Day of the Lord/The Last Day, et al.....

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