



## “The Culture of Corruption”

**“Therefore, since Messiah suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of Yahweh. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. (1 Peter 4:1-3)”**

I want to ask you a question, if you were the devil and wanted to deceive the entire world, how would you approach such a challenge? The real question most of us shy away from when it comes to deception is, “Have you ever been deceived?” And the answer to this question is an unequivocal, yes! Me included. But I believe strongly we are no longer deceived concerning the doctrines of Torah. I sincerely do believe we are not deceived about the doctrines of our Faith: the identity of Messiah – King YahShua – the Adam Kadmon – the express image of Yahweh, the fundamental truths of inerrant Scripture, the general time frame of prophecy, the identity of Israel, the unity of the two houses of the Commonwealth of Israel forming a Majority of people that are now walking this earth, the place of refuge at the Time of the End and the soon coming of Messiah.

But what about those creeping biases rolling around in our psyche? Our bias is formed by our beliefs and values. Our bias is programmed into us when we were very young. It is still very possible that some of us still have attitudes, concepts, ideas, impressions of people – the way we evaluate another human being or even old stray doctrines – the way we evaluate Scripture, that are totally untrue. Its time to give them up. Haven’t we wasted enough of our time acting like Gentiles in a Culture of Corruption? **“Surely Elohim is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart (lev).**

**But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well near slipped. For I was envious of the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no pains in their death: but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. They wear pride like a necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. Their eyes bulge out with abundance: they have more than the heart could wish for. They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak with arrogance. They set their mouth against the Heavens (shamayim), and their tongue parades through the earth.**

**Therefore His people return here: And waters of abundance are drunk by them. And they say, ‘How does El know?’ And is there knowledge in El Elyon? See, these are the wicked, who prosper in the Present World (olam hazeh); they increase in riches.**

**Surely in vain, I have cleansed my Heart and washed my hands in innocence. For all the daylong have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I say, I will speak this; see, I would have deceived the generation of your children. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the Sanctuary of El; then I understood their end.**

**Surely You did set them on a slippery slope: You cast them down into destruction. How are they brought into ruin, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one awakes; so, O Yahweh, when You awake, You shall despise their image. So my heart broke, my mind was pierced. So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before You. Nevertheless I am**

**continually with You: You have supported me by my right hand. You shall guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory (kavod). Who have I in the Heavens but You? And there is none upon the earth that I desire beside You. My flesh and my heart fails: but Elohim is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever (le-olam-va-ed).**

**For, look, they that are far from You shall perish: You have destroyed all them that go whoring away from You. But it is good for me to draw near to Elohim: I have put my trust in the Sovereign Yahweh, that I may declare all Your works. (Psalms 73)”**

Again I ask you, “Have you ever been deceived?”

**“And the great dragon was cast out, that head serpent, called the Slanderer (Akel Kartza) and HaSatan, who deceives the entire Present World (olam hazeh): he was cast out into the earth, and his heavenly kingdom (malachim – Sitre Ahurah) were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:9)”**

Right now we are in the midst of an international upheaval all because of the 7th century false prophet who changed world history in just 23 years whose story is one of intrigue and deception. Mohammad was orphaned as a child, but he was fortunate to be born into the powerful *Quraysh* tribe in the city of Mecca, a regional pilgrimage site and commercial crossroads. He became a successful trader based in this cosmopolitan center by marrying a woman who was a wealthy merchant. But Mohammed always wanted to be important in his own right – his own man – not just a kept man.

He saw in religion his path to greatness so he devised a tale that would sure sway superstitious Arabia. He said one day while in the desert, meditating in a mountain cave, He was struck by a revelation that changed his life and the world or as another version of the story puts it, he was visited by the angel Gabriel and given a book. He began to recite words that came to him, words he said were from Allah that the Arabs knew as the moon god. These messages would continue throughout the rest of his life. Originally they were just paraphrases of the Hebrew and Messianic Scriptures plus the Midrash with an Arab spin but as people refused to accept him as a prophet his revelations got darker and darker and more violent. Unable to write them, he would repeat them to his growing band of followers until they became part of their collective memory. Slowly after 300 years these so-called revelations began to form the book we now know as the Koran (or Qur'an). From the outset this new religion he called Islam (submission) has been violent by nature. Instead of a band of preaching disciples, Mohammed had an armed militia to bring his message of convert or else to the masses.

Now fast forward 1400 years to September 30, 2005 there came twelve cartoons depicting this legacy of the Islamic false prophet Mohammad published in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*. Kare Bluitgen, reportedly commissioned and published these cartoons to illustrate how difficult it was to get people to work on this subject. The crisis was precipitated by a young Islamic activist Ahmad Akkari who lives in Denmark who hand delivered the cartoons to leading Arab officials and clerics at a Saudi Arabian conference hoping to get something started.

Most of the cartoons were not very thought provoking. A couple (notably one depicting Muhammad as a terrorist with a bomb in his turban) were provocative in the way editorial cartoons should be. I think Islam is always nervous for people to get too close to examining their originator. The message of the cartoons is true, most people are deceived into believing Islam is a peaceful religion.

Our President George W. Bush, justified invading Iraq by claiming Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMD). In his speech, he claimed British Intelligence informed his administration that agents of Saddam Hussein had tried to buy enriched uranium in Nigeria from Russia.

After the invasion we could not find any WMDs so the Democratic Party in the US called for President Bush's ouster. In fact they have made this their platform in the next election to unseat the Republicans. They claim the Republicans have given the US a “Culture of Corruption.”

Then ABC News reported Wednesday, they were given 12 hours of tapes of the former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's talks with his Cabinet by Bill Tierney, a former member of a UN inspection team who was translating them for the FBI. ABC News said US officials confirmed the tapes were authentic.

The tapes also reveal Iraq's persistent efforts to hide information about weapons of mass destruction programs from UN inspectors. But this was nothing new to the Bush Administration. A spokeswoman for John Negroponte, director of national intelligence said, "Intelligence community analysts from the CIA, and the DIA reviewed the translations and found that, while fascinating, from a historical perspective the tapes do not reveal anything that changes their post-war analysis of Iraq's weapons programs nor do they change the findings contained in the comprehensive Iraq Survey group report."

So what happened to the WMDs? A former general and friend of Saddam Hussein, Ali Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who defected but maintains close contact with Iraq claims the regime supported al-Qaida with intelligence, finances and munitions and believes weapons of mass destruction are hidden in Syria.

Saddam Hussein's No. 2 Air Force officer, Georges Sada, said Iraq's weapons of mass destruction were moved to Syria six weeks before the war started. Sada claimed two Iraqi Airways Boeing jets converted to cargo planes moved the weapons in a total of 56 flights.

Interestingly enough, there are Democrats on the Intelligence Committee that heard and saw all this material. While privately they may believe the WMDs went to Syria, they are deceiving the American public and ultimately the world fueling anti-American sentiment by claiming there were no WMDs.

During a Capitol Hill news conference Tuesday (February 14, 2006), the vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee said "Able Danger" identified a problem in Yemen two weeks before the USS Cole was attacked in Aden port and 17 sailors died. Congressman Weldon is pushing for an investigation into "Able Danger." "Able Danger" was a classified United States Special Operations Command military intelligence program under the command of the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM). It was created as a result of a directive from the Joint Chiefs' of Staff in early October 1999 by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Hugh Shelton, to develop an Information Operations Campaign Plan against transnational terrorism, "specifically al-Qaida." According to statements by Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer and confirmed by four others, Able Danger had identified the September 11, 2001 attack leader Mohamed Atta and three of the 9/11 plot's 19 hijackers, as possible members of an al Qaeda cell linked to the '93 World Trade Center Attacks. The group used all information legally collected under the rule of law. Primarily consisting of classified information, all publicly obtained information was approved after a legal review of SOCOM lawyers. If true, the early identification of the four hijackers by Able Danger would contradict the official conclusion of the 9/11 Commission, that American intelligence agencies had not identified Atta as a terrorist prior to the attack. Ex-members of the Sept. 11 commission have dismissed his findings. But the Pentagon promised Wednesday to address the issues he raised.

The Saddam tapes proves he tried to warn President Clinton about terrorism. "Terrorism is coming. I told the Americans a long time before Aug. 2 and told the British as well ... that in the future there will be terrorism with weapons of mass destruction...In the future, what would prevent a booby-trapped car causing a nuclear explosion in Washington or a germ or a chemical one?...This is coming, this story is coming but not from Iraq."

Former President Clinton's national security adviser Sandy Berger after 9/11 went to the National Archives to steal documents relative to what the Clinton administration knew about possible al Qaeda terrorist squads in the US before 9/11 before those documents were turned over to the 9/11 investigating commission. Mr. Berger is said to have taken multiple copies of the same paper. Each copy of the millennium report is said to be in the range of 15 to 30 pages and were highly secret.

Mr. Berger said in defense, "In the course of reviewing over several days thousands of pages of documents on behalf of the Clinton administration in connection with requests by the September 11 commission, I inadvertently took a few documents from the Archives...When I was informed by the Archives that there were documents missing, I immediately returned everything I had except for a few documents that I apparently had accidentally discarded."

The papers that are missing are some drafts of a sensitive after-action report on the Clinton administration's handling of al Qaeda terror threats during the December 1999 millennium celebration and documents that catalogue America's terror vulnerabilities at airports to seaports officials said.

Amazingly, Mr. Berger admitted he knowingly removed the handwritten notes by placing them in his jacket, pants and socks, and also inadvertently took copies of actual classified documents in a leather portfolio.

The Justice Department investigated Mr. Berger. When confronted he said, "While reviewing documents last year I made an honest mistake. It is one that I deeply regret...Any suggestion that I had done anything other than try to aid the 9/11 commission is simply, absolutely wrong."

A few months the investigation was shut down and Mr. Berger declared cleared even with his admissions. What are we to make of the Sandy Berger affair. It's a timely reminder of the amazing sleaziness of politicians and bureaucrats and the lengths they go to deceive.

**"To respect Yahweh is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. (Proverbs 8:13)"**

Right now we are locked into a War Against Terrorism. We are fighting an Islamic foe that is bent on the destruction primarily of Israel and its Western Allies. Why? Because they are deceived. The

warfares all the way back to the first murder to WWII and the 60 wars fought since then and the wars being fought today is because of Satanic deception, false religion, false political ideas, but mainly because of what happens in men's minds. It is all the matter of ideas.

**“HaSatan, which deceived the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 9:12)”**

The reason so many people leave themselves open to deception is fear, suspicion, jealousy, hatred, prejudice, resentment, and racism. People act differently, think differently, talk differently, believe differently, and behave differently so we are suspicious of them and we hate them. Russians vs. Americans; Chinese vs. Russians, Catholics vs. Protestants, Korea vs. Japan, Jews vs. Arabs, Black vs. White, Male vs. Female you name we are living in a generation where everyone is in a competitive stance – everyone against someone else.

Where do you find hatred boiled down to its rudimentary form but in the religions of the world. Study the Inquisition. See what the Catholics did to so-called heretics and Jews. The Inquisition was primarily under the control of the Spanish monarch, Ferdinand and Isabella of Castile in 1478 with only the Inquisitor General appointed by the Pope. The Spanish Inquisition is especially well-known, particularly in the nature of the trials, of supposedly converted Jews, the Anusim, that they called Madranos – pigs, who claimed to have converted to Christianity but continued to practice their religion in secret. The Inquisition also gave rise to the Peruvian Inquisition and the Mexican Inquisition that included those Jews that fled to what would become Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Official Catholic documents estimate the dead at 3,000 to 5,000 during the Inquisition's 350-year history but critics put it in the millions.

Such religious hatred caused so-called pious men to brick a defendant up to starve to death; to smash a defendant's joints with hammers; to flail a defendant on the wheel; and to rape female defendants. This is what religious priests, standing in their so-called holy vestments are capable of. All this in an attempt to preserve their faith.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have been deceived. I used to teach the Rapture Doctrine. I used to teach that midway through the tribulation we were all going to be zapped out of here to safety while the rest of the world went through the Tribulation. Was I deceived – YES! I came to realize as I studied Scripture, that I had been willinly deceived. There was a time in my life that I wanted to be accepted by my peers. I wanted to be in. I wanted to be thought right by others. I wanted not to be out of line. I wanted to be like the others. I wanted to conform. I wanted to be part of what was happening.

I had learned quickly that if I got out of line you could get your head chopped off. I had questioned my superiors about the Sabbath and that one question had lbeled me a trouble maker. It took me a better part of a year to live that down. Like a turtle I learned to put my headback into its shell.

I remember going back to my office writing down in my notes how my supposition about Sabbath had been wrong. I repented of it and submerged myself deeper in accepted teaching. I had been right but was more than willing to embrace the wrong. It wasn't until I went to Bible School and really started studying the Word for itself did I realize the Truth of Yahweh. That's why I decided to preach Truth to you – because I have already been through being deceived because I was a product of a Culture of Corruption.

## **Seven Protection Against Being Decieved**

1. Realize the source of all your present knowledge. Where did you get what you believe? How much of that is in your head (the way you view other people, circumstances, situations, prophecies, Scripture, world conditions, the way you come to conclusions, the way you judge events, the way you decide your course of action – that is you – your psyche – your innermost mind – conscious and subconscious – your personality) has been programed into you. Who wrote your program? How much of it is tied into family, race, religion, language, society, and education? And of all of this how much of it have you really proved?

**“Test everything. Hold on to the good. (1 Thessalonians 5:21)”**

**“Now the Bereans were of more noble character...for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Rabbi Sha'ul said was true. (Acts 17:11)”**

**“...we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us... Don't let anyone deceive you in any way... For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work (...accordance with the work of haSatan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. 2 Thessalonians 2:9,10) ...For this reason Yahweh sends**

- them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness... So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. (2 Thessalonians 2:1,2,3,7,11,12,15)”
2. Do not depend on your present knowledge to make every decision. Do not think you, in your present condition, you have all it takes to decide between what is right and what is wrong. You need to consult the instruction manual – the Torah.
 

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety. (Proverbs 11:14)”

“Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established. (Proverbs 15:22)”

“For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety. (Proverbs 24:6)”
  3. Do not depend on the ministry alone for answers. Ministers do not know everything.
 

“Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. (Psalm 146:3,4)”
  4. Beware of attractive ideas. They may be designed to appeal to your biases. Isn't this the message of the “Story of the Pied Piper?”
 

“One of you says, "I follow Sha'ul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Kepha"; still another, "I follow Messiah." (1 Corinthians 1:12)”

“..Rebbe YahShua said to His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his crossbeam and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)”

“Let us fix our eyes on Rebbe YahShua, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of Yahweh. (Hebrews 12:2)”

“I plead with you, brothers, to see this clearly for the love of Yahweh. Offer up everything that you are to Yahweh to be burnt alive as a sacrifice, which is the only way He will ever accept you. This is a reasonable thing to do if you have really understood what Yahweh wants, and what pleases Him in worship. (Romans 12:1)”

“For the grace of Yahweh that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age (Titus 2:11-12).”

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)”

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Messiah YahShua has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching toward those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of Yahweh in Messiah YahShua. Therefore, let us, as many as are mature, have this in mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, Yahweh will reveal this even to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern" (Philippians 3:12-17).

“...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24)”

“Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. (Philippians 3:17)”

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Messiah. (1 Corinthians 11:1)”
  5. Admit to yourself you liked to be stroked. (ego massage) What is your motive for belief?
 

“At that time Rebbe YahShua, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Sovereign of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise

**and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. (Luke 10:21)”**

6. Put all things to the test objectively. Does it line up with the Word of Yahweh? If it is truth it will stand up. The written Word of Yahweh is your protection.

**“Study to show thyself approved unto Yahweh, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)”**

**“Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for I meditate on your statutes. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep your precepts. (Psalm 119:98-100)”**

7. Put Yahweh in your knowledge.

**“But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. (1 John 2:27)”**

**“...Spirit of Truth...will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13)”**

**“He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe. It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare Yahweh's people for works of service, so that the body of Messiah may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of Yahweh and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Messiah. (Ephesians 4:10-13)”**

**“The awe of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)”**

**“The awe of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10)”**

At the close of Rebbe YahShua's ministry he preached something called the “Olivet Discourse.”

It was in this sermon that he introduced the timeline of prophecy: wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes in diverse places, martyrdom, these are the beginning of sorrows. He told us that there would be heart attacks when men saw what was coming to pass in the Time of the End.

**“For then there will be a Great Tribulation, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false anointed ones and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. (Matthew 24:21-24)”**

Our Messiah is telling us there is a class of Believer He calls “the very elect” who have been called and chosen, who have been given the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit), who are able to guard the doors of their minds, who are not gullible, not naive, who do not seek for their ego to be massaged, they are not racists, they are not fearful and frightened exclusivists, they have broad, general knowledge of the Word and traditions, skeptical but not cynical, that have the gift of discernment, they painstakingly take all things preached and put it to the test of Scripture, look at it, think about it, weigh it, pray about it, get wise counsel, and if it stands up to the test – believe it. They are the very elect that our Messiah say cannot be deceived.

With these tools I've given you today and as we grow in the ability to discern and to very carefully evaluate what we hear and not just to swallow everything we hear without putting it to the test you can be part of the very elect that our Messiah say cannot be deceived.

