

**"The LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."
(Genesis 3:13)**

The Serpent Beguiled Me

Genesis 3:13, says:

"The LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

In second Corinthians, chapter eleven, Paul states:

"I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

The dictionary definition of "beguile" is deceive.

From the very beginning original sin entered into the world through Eve falling for a deceitful lie. Can this happen to people of God? Absolutely. As Paul warned the Christians in Corinth not to be deceived through subtilty. Subtilty being an old English word, today spelt subtly, meaning amongst other things slyness in design; cunning.

In Jesus' famous End Time discourse in Matthew 24, He warned four times in verses 4,5,11, and 24, not to be deceived. Who is He warning? At the very least it would be anyone who would have read Matthew 24, and most likely those readers who would have been believers in His words.

We live in an age of great deception. As 2 Timothy 3:13 clearly states:

"Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

Paul also states concerning the soon coming world dictator, the antichrist:

"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders." 2 Thessalonians 2:9

Jesus shows John in Revelation it is through deceit, subtly, lies, etc. that the image of the beast, antichrist, is created, which leads ultimately to the infamous 666 mark of the beast.

"He, (the false prophet), doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast."

(Revelation 13:13-14)

We know of course that we are in a great spiritual warfare between good and evil:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12

However, this spiritual warfare is definitely manifested in our physical world between God's representatives and Satan's representatives, with Satan's ultimate representative being the antichrist.

Jesus also warned us to:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:15-16)

If what is happening in the world today does not make sense, or is confusing, or just plain lunacy, remember the times in which we are living.

Niccola di Bernardo dei Machiavelli, one of the main founders of modern political science, was truly a man inspired--though it seems not by God.

A way of thinking of Machiavelli's ideas is in terms of Realpolitik.

"Realpolitik refers to politics or diplomacy based primarily on power and on practical and material factors and considerations, rather than ideological notions or moralistic or ethical premises." Wikipedia