

# The Great Deception

*How To Keep From Falling Away in the Last Days  
(Part 8)*

By Pastor Grant Williams



## *Ezekiel 33 AMPC*

*1 And the word of the Lord came to me, saying,*

*2 Son of man, speak to your people [the Israelite captives in Babylon] and say to them, When I bring the sword upon a land and the people of the land take a man from among them and make him their watchman,*

*3 If when he sees the sword coming upon the land, he blows the trumpet and warns the people,*

*4 Then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.*

*5 He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning shall save his life.*

*6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, he is taken away in and for his perversity and iniquity, but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.*

*7 So you, son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear the word at My mouth and give them warning from Me.*

*8 When I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his perversity and iniquity, but his blood will I require at your hand.*

*9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from his evil way and he does not turn from his evil way, he shall die in his iniquity, but you will have saved your life.*

When we see judgment coming, we are commanded to do this: sound the alarm and blast the trumpet. Especially the watchman, the pastor, the preacher. If not, it's not going to be good...

### **Eccl 1:8 AMPC**

*9 The thing that has been—it is what will be again, and that which has been done is that which will be done again; and there is nothing new under the sun.*

We have to tell people? I don't want people to mock me or scoff at my words. Remember they aren't your Words but "this is that" spoken of by the never wrong prophet that is taking place right now. Don't add or delete anything so they are God's words and His only.

**Isaiah 46:9-10 AMPC**

*9 [Earnestly] remember the former things, [which I did] of old; for I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is none like Me,*

*10 Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure and purpose,*

**Isaiah 46:9-10 KJV**

*9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,*

*10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

There are (going to be more) pastors, preachers, teachers, followers of Christ, church attendees who say nothing regarding these End Time events. The Bible says that it will take place with many who deceive many about sin, judgment, righteousness and things (prophecies) to come (John 16).

**Isaiah 56:10-11 AMPC**

*10 [Israel's] watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, they love to slumber.*

*11 Yes, the dogs are greedy; they never have enough. And such are the shepherds who cannot understand; they have all turned to their own way, each one to his own gain, from every quarter [one and all].*

**Isaiah 56:10-11 GNT**

*10 He says, "All the leaders, who are supposed to warn my people, are blind! They know nothing. They are like watch dogs that don't bark—they only lie around and dream. How they love to sleep!*

*11 They are like greedy dogs that never get enough. These leaders have no understanding. They each do as they please and seek their own advantage.*

**Isaiah 56:10-11 KJV**

*10 His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.*

*11 Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.*

Because of what has been foretold in the Old Testament about the actions or lack of action by its watchmen, the New Testament writers tell us about the spiritual condition that will take place. People don't want to hear and many who are charged with speaking the truth are twisting God's Word or are silent.

**2 Timothy 3:1-13 KJV**

*1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

*2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

*3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was.

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

## **2 Timothy 3:1-13 AMPC**

1 But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].

2 For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters.

*They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane.*

*3 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good.*

*4 [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God.*

*5 For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them].*

*6 For among them are those who worm their way into homes and captivate silly and weak-natured and spiritually dwarfed women, loaded down with [the burden of their] sins [and easily] swayed and led away by various evil desires and seductive impulses.*

*7 [These weak women will listen to anybody who will teach them]; they are forever inquiring and getting information, but are never able to arrive at a recognition and knowledge of the Truth. 8 Now just as [a]Jannes and Jambres were hostile to and resisted Moses, so these men also are hostile to and oppose the Truth. They have depraved and distorted minds, and are reprobate and counterfeit and to be rejected as far as the faith is concerned.*

*9 But they will not get very far, for their rash folly will become obvious to everybody, as was that of those [magicians mentioned].*

*10 Now you have closely observed and diligently followed my teaching, conduct, purpose in life, faith, patience, love, steadfastness,*

*11 Persecutions, sufferings—such as occurred to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, persecutions I endured, but out of them all the Lord delivered me.*

*12 Indeed all who delight in piety and are determined to live a devoted and godly life in Christ Jesus will meet with persecution [will be made to suffer because of their religious stand].*

*13 But wicked men and imposters will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and leading astray others and being deceived and led astray themselves.*

In the midst of the spiritually difficult times (in the Latter Days or Time of the End prior to the Rapture) our job is to be His witness (Acts 1) and to make as many disciples as possible. We have opposition, not just in the world, but unfortunately, in the Church because it is worldly - Jesus said this would take place. So we need to do some “things”, instructions from God’s Word regarding the end of time.

**Matthew 28:16-20 KJV**

*16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.*

*17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.*

*18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

*19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

*20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

**Matthew 28:16-20 AMPC**

*16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed and made appointment with them.*

*17 And when they saw Him, they fell down and worshiped Him; but some doubted.*

*18 Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.*

*19 Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

*20 Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age. Amen (so let it be).*

Satan knows it's our job and he knows the command as disciples or followers/imitators of Christ that we are to go & make disciples. Satan knows and so should we that as the disciple, follower or imitator of Christ, we show and prove our love by keeping the commands.

**John 14:15-17 KJV**

*15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

*16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*



*17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

Jesus ministered (served and supplied the need) while here on earth to people and said there would be the “promised Holy Spirit” that would come when HE went away to help us witness, sound the alarm, blast the trumpet and guide us into all truth. The truth about sin, judgment, righteousness and things to come.

### **John 16:13 AMPC**

*13 But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and **He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].***

Jesus said, He promised, that the Holy Spirit would guide them into truth, give them power, give them boldness to witness and make disciples. That boldness is evident when you and I, doing our part, obey the commands of Christ which can only be known and done by knowing and reading the Word.

### **Acts 1:8 AMPC**

*8 But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.*

The Holy Spirit quickens us, empowers us (if we let Him), to not just recite the Word, but to live it. We will stop habitually repeating the sin from the old nature, acting, speaking and living like a new creation made in the image of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8:1-20 AMPC**

*1 Therefore, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.*

*2 For the law of the Spirit of life [which is] in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being] has freed me from the law of sin and of death.*

*3 For God has done what the Law could not do, [its power] being weakened by the flesh [the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit]. Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, [God] condemned sin in the flesh [subdued, overcame, deprived it of its power over all who accept that sacrifice],*

*4 So that the righteous and just requirement of the Law might be fully met in us who live and move not in the ways of the flesh but in the ways of the Spirit [our lives governed not by the standards and according to the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit].*

*5 For those who are according to the flesh and are controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on and pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit and are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on and seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit.*

6 Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever].

7 [That is] because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed it cannot.

8 So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.

9 But you are not living the life of the flesh, you are living the life of the Spirit, if the [Holy] Spirit of God [really] dwells within you [directs and controls you]. But if anyone does not possess the [Holy] Spirit of Christ, he is none of His [he does not belong to Christ, is not truly a child of God].

10 But if Christ lives in you, [then although] your [natural] body is dead by reason of sin and guilt, the spirit is alive because of [the] righteousness [that He imputes to you].

11 And if the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, [then] He Who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also restore to life your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.

The phrase, 'restore to life' here in the Amplified Version is the word 'quicken' in the original King James manuscript.

### Quicken Defined: 1828 Webster's Dictionary

1. to make alive; to vivify; to revive or resuscitate, as from death or an inanimate state.

#### Romans 8:11 KJV

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

12 So then, brethren, we are debtors, but not to the flesh [we are not obligated to our carnal nature], to live [a life ruled by the standards set up by the dictates] of the flesh.

13 For if you live according to [the dictates of] the flesh, you will surely die. But if through the power of the [Holy] Spirit you are [habitually] putting to death (making extinct, deadening) the [evil] deeds prompted by the body, you shall [really and genuinely] live forever.

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

15 For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father!

16 The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God.

17 And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory.

18 [But what of that?] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time (this present life) are not worth being compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us and for us and conferred on us!

19 For [even the whole] creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known [waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship].

20 For the creation (nature) was subjected to frailty (to futility, condemned to frustration), not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it—[yet] with the hope...

Satan knows you have this power available to you and the command that you have so he will come up against the disciple of Christ and try to stop the gospel seed/message from being shared not just by mouth but by actions as well. Our actions can also be described as how we live at work, home, with friends or when no one is around.

**1 John 3:18 AMPC**

*18 Little children, let us not love [merely] in theory or in speech but in deed and in truth (in practice and in sincerity).*

**James 1:22 AMPC**

*22 But be doers of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying yourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth].*

**Colossians 3:17 AMPC**

*17 And whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus and in [dependence upon] His Person, giving praise to God the Father through Him.*

**Colossians 3:23 AMPC**

*23 Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] for the Lord and not for men,*

God has requirements to be in His Kingdom. We don't dictate what the requirements are. We don't get to vote, we can't gather to ourselves teachers who say we can change God's Word or spin a little bit of truth and then still change God's Word.

While we are doing God's work, wherever He has called us to do our sojourning, our temporary assignment, there will be Jezebels. We've been studying Jezebel and the characteristics of Jezebel in the Old and New Testament and we know it shuts people down who are living a life pleasing to God. The imitators of Christ who are working in the Kingdom of God, specifically targeting men, in order to keep them quiet and focused on their work, hobbies - anything but Kingdom work.

We need to pray for the men. The enemy wants them crushed, to remain in sin, to go back to their sinful habits, to be caught in the traps that satan has laid out. This isn't an excuse for men, I am one. It's a realization of what the enemy is trying to do - get the man and destroy the marriage, the business, the church... we need to pray in victory and not in defeat.

We will have great victorious times in our lives both spiritually and naturally just like Elijah. Life is good when children, job, relationships, & money meet our expectations. God provides all our needs and in abundance in certain areas at different times.

Then, the enemy comes in when you get focused on something other than God's will and plan for your life - good or bad. You become tempted in an area and you give in because of \_\_\_\_\_. We all have weaknesses and we need to identify them.

Fear is often the "fill in the blank" root. Fear is the opposite of faith. Fear is energy draining; Faith is energy producing. *We all need to feed our faith by reading God's Word.*

**Fear tolerated is Faith contaminated**

So, let's pick up our story about Elijah, King Ahab and Jezebel where we left off in Part 7.

Remember, this was a victorious time in Elijah's walk with God. Wherever his foot touched (where God told him to go not where he wanted to go but where God wanted him to go), was His (God's) and his (Elijah) for the glory and Kingdom of God.

Elijah had told King Ahab (picture of the Church) that their sin would bring a drought. King Ahab had looked the other way and had allowed the people to worship God in ways that God said was evil, false, and punishable.

King Ahab said to Elijah (mouthpiece of God), you've been saying this a long time and nothing has happened yet. The kingdom has money/provision, so I will continue as I have been. Jezebel was leading these groupings of people and multiplying that same spirit of deception and false worship, secular worship by getting more teachers to follow her.

A drought came, Elijah took off and was fed by ravens, a Jewish woman who gave him the first of her provision (tithe) and he healed her son. God was providing even in the wilderness.

Elijah, commanded by God, came back to speak to King Ahab and have a show down of the false god and the ONE TRUE GOD. The altar that Elijah prepared was consumed with fire from heaven and all the 850 false prophets were killed. The people realized they were following false teachers, a false way of worship and killed off the old nature and old ways of living.

We ended part 7 with the celebration of the drought ending. Elijah full of power, a spiritually and naturally victorious time...

### **1 Kings 19:1-3 KJV**

*1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.*

*2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."*

*3 And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.*

## **Elijah - Key Points of 1 Kings 19:1-3**

- o Look at Elijah, to this point he was "the man"**
- o But all of a sudden this totally changes because of one word of adversity**
- o You would think after all the Lord had just used him to do, Elijah would not have flinched**
- o But this was an especially evil attack - spirit of Jezebel**
- o Jezebel represents a wicked spirit, a spirit of control, manipulation, intimidation and rebellion**
- o Jezebel represents bondage and destruction**

### **1 Kings 19:4 KJV**

*4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"*



## Elijah - Key Points of 1 Kings 19:4

- o Easy for us to say, "what a wimp, what a whiner!"
- o Have any of us called fire down from Heaven, or outran horses for 16 miles?
- o No matter how long you have walked with God, you are still subject to attack
- o Even Elijah had a breaking point in the natural
- o Perhaps Elijah expected God to fully purge idolatry from the land
- o He thought that Jezebel would flee after she heard what happened to all the false prophets

### 1 Kings 19:5-6 KJV

*5 Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."*

*6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.*

## Elijah - Key Points of 1 Kings 19:5-6

- o Thank God! He meets us at our point of weakness
- o Without condemnation, without frustration, without anger, without disgust – just pure compassion
- o God ministers encouragement to His people and not just a rebuke

### 1 Kings 19:7-8 KJV

*7 And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."*

*8 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.*

## **Elijah - Key Points of 1 Kings 19:7**

- o Again, He fasts and travels 40 days and nights
- o The Spirit of the Lord was on Him even if he didn't feel it

### **1 Kings 19:9-10 KJV**

*9 And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

*10 So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."*

## **Elijah - Key Points of 1 Kings 19:9-10**

- o This may sound like complaining but I am glad that My God wants to "reason together"
- o Elijah is in this cave (having a melt-down), He is in bondage and the Word of the Lord is about to SET HIM FREE

### **1 Kings 19:11-12 KJV**

*11 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and*

*after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;*

*12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.*

## **Elijah - Key Points of 1 Kings 19:11-12**

- o So many times we miss the Word of the Lord because we look for the fantastic
- o But we have the Holy Spirit within us
- o Elijah got a glimpse of what we can enjoy every day

### **1 Kings 19:13 KJV**

*13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

## **Elijah - Key Points of 1 Kings 19:13**

- o God asks him a 2nd time
- o The Lord is saying, "what are you doing here?"
- o In this place of bondage, fear, depression, loneliness, confusion?
- o This is not where you belong

### **1 Kings 19:14 KJV**

*14 And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts;*

*because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."*

*15 Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way"*

## **Elijah - Key Points of 1 Kings 19:14-15**

- o **God sent him back to minister in His power**
- o **The Lord wanted him to minister out of His need**
- o **He didn't say take a break Elijah, He said, "go and return on your way."**
- o **He encourages him & gives new instructions**
- o **He even tells him to take on a trainee – Elisha**

This trainee, Elisha is also called a disciple. This disciple, is also called an ally. This ally is also called a remnant. This is how God intended for us to multiply and to stay in line with His perfect plan and will and He still intends for His Kingdom to expand today the same way.

## **Biblical Definition Of, *the (a) Remnant:***

**...what remains when the others have left**