Casting Down Arguments (series)

**8—END TIMES DECEPTION**

(arguments, lies, high things, thoughts, fiery darts)

**2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV)** For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **5** casting down arguments and **every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God**, bringing EVERY THOUGHT into CAPTIVITY to the obedience of Christ.

**“EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD**” **… IS REFERRING TO DEMONIC SPIRITS WHO ARE EXALTING THEMSELVES AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE THAT COMES FROM GOD… THE WORD OF THE… BIBLICAL MORALITY… WHAT GOD SAYS IS RIGHT AND WRONG.**

**WE ARE NOW LIVING IN THE TIMES OF DEMONIC DECEPTION**

**1 Timothy 4:1–2 (NKJV)** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times **some will depart from the faith**, giving heed to **deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**, **2** speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.

**EX – JONATHAN CAHN’S BOOK “THE RETURN OF THE GOD’S**

**EX – TWICE A WEEK OUR APOSTOLIC TEAM GATHERS FOR SEVERAL HOURS TO PRAY… AND DURING ONE OF OUR PRAYER TIMES THIS WEEK, ONE OF OUR EXECUTIVE PASTORS SAW A VISION THAT WENT SOMETHING LIKE THIS. HE SAW PEOPLE WATCHING THE NEWS ON TV… BUT THE VOICE COMING OUT OF EACH NEWSCASTER WAS THE VOICE OF DEMON… AND THEN HE SAW PEOPLE WATCHING TV SHOWS.. AND THE ACTORS LOOKED LIKE THE NORMAL ACTORS, BUT THE VOICES COMING OUT OF THE ACTORS WERE THE VOICES OF DEMONS.**

**AND BECAUSE OF THE DECEPTION OF THESE EVIL SPIRITS… THERE ARE ALSO MORE AND MORE HUMAN DECEIVERS.**

**2 Timothy 3:1 & 13 (NKJV)** But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come**… VERSE 13** … evil men and **impostors** will grow worse and worse, **deceiving and being deceived.**

**THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT THIS DECEPTION WILL CONTINUE TO GET WORSE AS WE DRAW NEAR TO THE DAYS OF THE ANTICHRIST.**

**2 Thessalonians 2:1–4, 7–12 (NKJV)** Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, **2** not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **3** L**et no one deceive you by any means;** for that Day will not come **unless** the **falling away** **[apostasia]** comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, **4** **who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God** or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. **… VERSE 9** The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, **10** and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **11** And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, **12** that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

**AND FOR THOSE WHO REJECT THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL AND CHOOSE IN THEIR ARROGANCE TO BELIEVE THE LIES… HE WILL SEND THEM STRONG DELUSION.**

**HOW BAD WILL THE DECEPTION GET?**

**Matthew 24:22–24 (NKJV)** And unless those days were shortened, **no flesh would be saved**; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. **23** “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. **24** For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

**WHAT DID JESUS SAY?**

**THE DECEPTION WILL BECOME SO BAD, THAT UNLESS THOSE DAYS ARE SHORTENED… NO FLESH WOULD BE SAVED.**

**JESUS IS TELLING US NOT TO TAKE THIS LIGHTLY… THAT EVEN STRONG BELIEVERS ARE VULNERABLE TO DECEPTION OF THE END TIMES.**

**LET’S TALK ABOUT A FEW OF THESE DECEPTIONS:**

1. **PERVERSITY AND COMPROMISE: MANY BELIEVERS—ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG—ARE BEING PULLED INTO PERVERSITY IN THE NAME OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY.**

**WE STUDIED FLAMING ARROWS — PEOPLE’S WORDS — THAT MAY NOT SEEM VERY DEADLY WHEN THEY’RE SPOKEN… IT’S ONLY AFTER IMPACT THAT YOU SEE HOW DEVASTATING THESE “FIERY DARTS” ARE.**

**SOME DEADLY WORDS ARE LAUNCHED DIRECTLY AT US… BUT MOST WORDS AGAINST ALL OF SOCIETY… ANYONE WHO WILL LISTEN… THEY COME THROUGH:**

* TV shows we watch and listen to
* News reports & articles we read
* Other articles
* Social media posts we see and read
* Videos
* Movies
* Radio
* Etc.

**MANY OF THESE DEADLY WORDS ARE ON A TRAJECTORY TO MISS US, BUT ALL TOO OFTEN WE REPOSITION OURSELVES TO HEAR THEM, OR READ THEM, SO THAT THEY LAND IN OUR HEARTS.**

**Romans 1:18–32 (NKJV)** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **19** because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. **20** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, **21** because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Professing to be wise, they became fools, **23** and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. **24** Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, **25** who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **26** For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. **27** Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. **28** And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; **29** being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, **30** backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; **32** who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

**EX – Pastors, Ministry Leaders, & Denominations being swept away by the deception.**

**FRIENDS… WE MUST FILL OUR HEARTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD… AND WE MUST FILL THE HEARTS OF OUR CHILDREN AND OUR FAMILY MEMBERS WITH THE WORD OF GOD.**

1. **DIVISION: ONE STRATEGY OF THE DEVIL IS TO DIVIDE THE BODY OF CHRIST… TO DESTROY ALL OF US. (JESUS SAID, “EVERY KINGDOM DIVIDED”).**

**Matthew 12:25 (NKJV)** **[Jesus said]** “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

**TO THE ENEMY, THE POINT IS NOT WHICH SIDE YOU’RE ON, BUT THAT WE’RE DIVIDED.**

**EX – THE PHARISEES AND THE SADDUCEES**

**Acts 23:8 (NKJV)** For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both.

**Philippians 3:4–6 (NLT)** though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! **5** I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. **6** I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

**THE PHARISEES HAD A MORE ACCURATE UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE… AND THEY HELD ONTO THE MORE TRADITIONAL VALUES OF THE GENERATIONS BEFORE THEM… BUT THE SADDUCEES CONTROLLED THE JEWISH GOVERNING POWER AND POSITIONS, SUCH AS BEING THE HIGH PRIEST… AND THE SADDUCEES LIKELY MADE UP MOST OF THE SANDHEDRIN.**

**SO IN THAT DAY… WE SHOULD HAVE CLOSELY FOLLOWED AND SUPPORTED THE PHARISEES, RIGHT??? LISTEN TO WHAT JOHN THE BAPTIST SAID IN…**

**Matthew 3:7–8 (NASB 2020)** But when **[John the Baptist]** saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance;

**AND LISTEN TO WHAT JESUS SAID…**

**Matthew 16:5–12 (ESV)** When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. **6** Jesus said to them, “Watch and beware of the leaven of the **Pharisees and Sadducees**.” **7** And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, “We brought no bread.” **8** But Jesus, aware of this, said, “O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? **9** Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? **10** Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? **11** How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” **12** Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

**SO EVEN THOUGH THE PHARISEES HAD A MORE ACCURATE VIEW OF SCRIPTURE… THEY ALSO HAD SOME DEADLY DECEPTION IN THEIR VIEWS.**

**AND LISTEN TO WHAT JESUS IDENTIFIED ABOUT THEIR APPROACH TO TRADITIONAL VALUES…**

**Matthew 15:1–3 (NKJV)** Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, **2** “Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” **3** He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?

**YOU SEE… EVEN THOUGH THE PHARISEES HAD A MORE ACCURATE UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE… AND TOOK A MORE TRADITIONAL VALUES APPROACH… THEY DIDN’T HONOR GOD OR HIS WORD AS MUCH AS THEIR BELIEFS.**

1. **ANOTHER STRATEGY OF THE DEVIL IS TO LURE US INTO DEBATES DESIGNED TO DISCREDIT AND DESTROY US. (AVOID FOOLISH DISPUTES).**

**1 Timothy 1:3–4 (NIV)** As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer **4** or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God’s work—which is by faith.

**2 Timothy 2:23 (NKJV)** But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

**Titus 3:9 (NKJV)** But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

1. **ANOTHER STRATEGY OF THE DEVIL IS TO SPREAD SO MANY THEORIES AND NARRATIVES THAT IT CAPTIVATES OUR TIME AND ATTENTION (LIST MANY)… AND HERE’S WHAT I BELIEVE… SOME OF THESE ARE TRUE, AND SOME OF THESE ARE LIES.**

**2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NCV)** because the time will come when people will not listen to the true teaching but will find many more teachers who please them by saying the things they want to hear. **4** They will stop listening to the truth and will **begin to follow false stories**.

1. **ANOTHER STRATEGY OF THE DEVIL IS TO TEMPT US TO ARGUE WITH SCOFFERS (DO NOT REBUKE A SCOFFER)**

**Proverbs 9:7–8 (NASB 2020)** One who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself, And one who rebukes a wicked person gets insults for himself. **8** Do not rebuke a scoffer, or he will hate you; Rebuke a wise person and he will love you.

**1 Timothy 2:1–4 (NKJV)** Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, **2** for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. **3** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**CONTRARY TO POUPAR BELIEF… JESUS AVOIDED MOST CONFRONTATION… HE SAID IN…**

**John 8:26 (NKJV)** I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.”

**ALPHA TRAINING SAYS… IN THE GOSPELS…**

* **JESUS ASKED 307 QUESTIONS**
* **JESUS WAS ASKED 183 QUESTIONS**
* **JESUS ONLY DIRECTLY ANSWERED 8 QUESTIONS (SOME SCHOLARS SAY HE ONLY ANSWERED 3)**

**\*\*SO JESUS IS ALMOST 40 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO ASK A QUESTION THAN TO PROVIDE A DIRECT ANSWER TO A QUESTION.**

**EX – Should we pay taxes to Caesar or not?**

**EX – Who is my neighbor? (Good Samaritan story)**

**PAUL AVOIDED POLITICAL DEBATES… AND EVEN MANY DOCTINAL DEBATES… HE WAS THE ONE WE QUOTED EARLIER TELLING TIMOTHY NOT TO DEBATE WITH PEOPLE… AND LISTEN TO WHAT THIS PHARISEE OF PHARISEES SAID TO THE CORINTHIANS IN…**

**1 Corinthians 2:1–2 (NASB 2020)** And when I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come as someone superior in speaking ability or wisdom, as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God. **2** For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

**YES… WE MUST STAND FOR TRUTH… BUT WE NEED TO BE AWARE THAT THE ENEMY WANTS TO LURE US INTO FIGHTING HIS WAY.**

**WE MUST KEEP THE MAIN THINGS THE MAIN THINGS (SURE WHAT THE MAIN THINGS ARE… READING OUR BIBLES IN FELLOWSHIPPING WITH JESUS, SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH PEOPLE AND MAKING DISCIPLES, ETC.)**

**SO… WHAT SHOULD WE DO?**

**Psalm 1:1–2 (NASB 2020)** Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! **2** But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, And on His Law he meditates day and night.

**LISTEN TO WHAT PETER… JESUS’ #1 DISCIPLE WROTE IN…**

**2 Peter 1:16–21 (NASB 2020)** For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. **17** For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such a declaration as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory: “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased”—**18** and we ourselves heard this declaration made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. **19** And **so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.** **20** But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of someone’s own interpretation, **21** for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

**GOD IS CALLING US TO CLING TO HIS WORD AS THE ONLY RELIABLE SOURCE OF TRUTH… NOT POLITICAL FIGURES… NEWSCASTERS… MOVIE STARS… ATHELETES… SOCIAL JUSTICE VOICES… YOUTUBE… INSTAGRAM… FACEBOOK… OR WATCHING ENTERTAINMENT DAY AND NIGHT.**

**NO… THE WORD OF GOD. LISTEN TO WHAT PAUL WROTE TO TIMOTHY IN…**

**2 Timothy 3:1, 13–17 (NKJV)** But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: **… VERSE 13** But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, **deceiving and being deceived. 14** But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, **15** and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**AND LISTEN TO WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**John 16:13 (NKJV)** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

**AND IN THE NEXT CHAPTER JESUS SAID TO HIS FATHER…**

**John 17:17 (NKJV)** “Your word is truth.”

**SO… THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL GUIDE YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE WORD OF GOD.**