

Satan's Hidden Influence Lesson #1 : Handout Introduction

In this series of lessons we are going to expose Satan as the God of this world and also show some of the way he influences people with things that they sometimes are not even aware of. The purpose of this study is to make the young person aware of how subtle and deceptive Satan really is and to give them a warning about getting involved with things that are influenced directly by Satan.

In **2 Corinthians 4:4** we see that Satan is referred to as the god of this world. But note that as the god of this world he has blinded the minds of them which believe not lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should shine unto them.

Now Satan uses all sorts of things to blind the minds of people from the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan has many worshipping false gods, or other idols such as education and money or other material things. What many do not realize is the simple fact that Satan is behind most of the things that replace true worship of the one true God.

From the very beginning Satan has desired to be worshipped. In **Isaiah 14:12-15** we see that this is one of the reasons of his fall. Notice the five I's of Satan in this passage. One of these is "I will be like the most High". From the very beginning Satan has desired to be like God and even above God. This is why he is doing anything possible to get people to worship him instead of God.

Warnings about the World :

If Satan is the god of this world then we should be very careful about the things in this world. The word of God gives us some verses about the world that we should take note of and we will list some of these below.

1) **Matthew 24:35** (The earth will pass away one day)

- Jesus says in this verse that the world will pass away but his words will not. If the world is going to pass away then we should not be so concerned with worldly things or how much we can accumulate while we are here.

2) **1 Corinthians 7:31** (The Fashion of this world will pass away)

- This verse speaks about not abusing the world. It is true that we must live in the world and make a living to support our family, but we are not to abuse this world. This means we are not to get consumed with the things of this world to the point that it is our main motivating factor in how we live.
- Note that the word fashion is used here. Many spend countless dollars every year to try and keep us with the latest trends and fashions in clothing only to have them become out of style next year. Remember this world and its fashion is going to pass away.

- 3) **Ephesians 2:2** (Satan is behind the course of this world)
 - This verse is describing the life of a person before they are saved and they are said to walk according to the course of this world. Then the course is said to be according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. This is Satan; remember he is the god of this world.
- 4) **Colossians 2:8** (Many are spoiled by Philosophy, Tradition, & Rudiments of the world)
 - This verse is a plain warning, note the word beware, to the saved person about worldly ideas and traditions and the thinking men.
- 5) **1 John 2:15-17** (Love not World)
 - This passage plainly tells us that the things of the world are not of the father and therefore we should not love them.

Satan's Deceptiveness :

As any good con-man knows there must be an element of truth in the con for it to work. Satan as the god of this world is the master con-man. He always uses just enough of the bible to mess people up. Satan is extremely wise and he uses this to his advantage. In **Ezekiel 28:12-19** we see that Satan was originally created by God as the anointed cherub that coverth (verse 14). In his original condition he is said to be full of wisdom (verse 12), but after his fall note that his wisdom is said to be corrupted (verse 17). Satan still has his wisdom just note that it has been corrupted. Below are some verses that warn us of this.

- Genesis 3:1** (Satan was more subtil than any beast of the field)
2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (Satan can be transformed into an angel of light)
1 Peter 5:8 (Satan is like a lion devouring seeks whom he can devour)
2 Thessalonians 2:7 (The mystery of iniquity is already at work)
1 John 4:1-4 (The Spirit of anti-christ is already at work)

An Example of Satan's Deceptiveness :

Here we will list an example of how deceptive Satan really is. First we must remember that Satan was originally created as the anointed cherub that coverth (Ezekiel 28:14). There are 3 places in the word of God where we see the living creatures around the throne described and when they are described they each are connected with 4 faces. We will list them with the 4 faces below.

Ezekiel 1:10

- 1) Man
- 2) Lion
- 3) Ox
- 4) Eagle

Ezekiel 10:14

- 1) Cherub
- 2) Man
- 3) Lion
- 4) Eagle

Revelation 4:7

- 1) Lion
- 2) Calf
- 3) Man
- 4) Eagle

Note that all the faces match except in **Ezekiel 10:14** and the ox or calf, which represents the same class of beast, is replaced with a Cherub. This tells us that the face of a cherub is that of an

ox or a calf. You might be thinking what does this have to do with anything but remember that Satan is the anointed cherub that coveth. Before he fell there would have been 5 living creatures around the throne. There as the anointed cherub Satan is connected with a calf or an ox.

When we think of Satan we think of the little red devil we see in cartoons, but we do not believe that is a real image of Satan. Satan in his deceptive ways is hiding in plain sight. In the cartoon he is always red, in **Revelation 12:3** he is called a great red dragon. In many of the old cartoons he is drawn with a split foot or hoof this matches a calf or an ox, he is even been called old split foot. He is always drawn with 2 horns, this matches a calf or an ox. He is drawn with a pointed tail, this matches a calf also.

It is not just a coincidence that the very first false god that the children of Israel made after leaving Egypt was a golden calf (**Exodus 32:1-6**), Satan was behind it the whole time. Notice also in **1 Kings 12:25-33** that Jeroboam made false gods out of golden calves and the children of Israel worshiped them. This is why many false religions are connected with cows or bulls it is the influence of Satan and many people do not even realize it.

From these things we see that Satan is very deceptive and sneaky in his approach to getting mankind to worship him and therefore we should be very careful in these matters.

