

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Chapter Twelve.

From the Desk of Rabbi Yochanan Hammond

uitam@unitedintorah.org

It would be hoped that wisdom would go some way to help protect us against deception that would harm us in numerous ways.

“The plans of the upright are honest, the intrigues of the wicked are full of deceit.” Proverbs 12:5 [NJB]

“To tell the truth is to further justice, a false witness is nothing but deceit.” Proverbs 12:17 [NJB]

“Deceit is in the heart of the schemer, joy with those who give counsels of peace.” Proverbs 12:20 [NJB]

Deceit has a sinister purpose, especially in the context of biblical matters. The Hebrew word used for deceit in the above scriptures is **mirmah** and points to: fraud, false, guile, treachery.

It is not just important that we Children of Israel guard against deceit, it is vital. We face serious trouble if we allow ourselves to be deceived and removed from the wisdom and protection of HaShem, HaMoshiach Yeshua and Torah.

“Make sure that no one captivates you with empty lure of ‘philosophy’ of the kind that human beings hand on, based on the principles of this world and not on Moshiach.” Colossians 2:8 [NJB]

To guard against deceit one needs to be confident and knowledgeable in the subject of interest. Biblically this translates to knowing the promises and will of HaShem as given to us through Torah and the examples set by Yeshua HaMoshiach. It is a fact that the Children of Israel have a history of

being deceived by “the enemy”. It is the opinion of this author that this will continue for a time and the tools of the deceiver will become more sophisticated as the “end times” draw nearer. Wisdom that the Father imparts is given in a manner which can be understood by those who have ears to hear. Wisdom needs to be given in a form that can be understood by the audience for whom it is meant. Those who have hard hearts and blocked ears will find it almost impossible to absorb the wisdom of HaShem. We also know that Satan is the father of lies and Yeshua addresses these issues with the following.

“Yeshua answered, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, since I have my origin in God and have come from him; I did not come of my own accord, but He who sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? Because you cannot bear to listen to my words. You are from your father, the devil, and you prefer to do what your father wants. He was a murderer from the start; he was never grounded in the truth; there is no truth in him at all. When he lies he is speaking true to his nature, because he is a liar, and the father of lies. But it is because I speak the truth that you do not believe me.’” John 8: 42-45 [NJB]

Lies are attached to deceit. Not only is Satan a master liar but he is a master deceiver. When you couple his natural talents with the pride of mankind then you have fertile ground for sowing seeds of deception. Sadly we witness this in both Christianity and Rabbinical Judaism. With the mix of Satan’s messages and pride of mankind we have Christianity swallowing the lie that the Torah has been done away with and the so called Church has control of the “rule book”. Then we have Rabbinical Judaism swallowing the lies that Yeshua is not the Messiah and must be avoided at all costs. Both have been deceived by the master of deception and their own pride.

Make no mistake we can all be deceived and I can guarantee that there are more than a few who believe the position we at JSI take is built on lies and deception. We can defend our position using HaShem’s Word along with equal weights and measures. Those who defend celebrating Christmas, Easter and Sunday worship cannot do this from HaShem’s Words and Rabbinical Judaism has to use unequal weights and measures of scripture to defend their position. I don’t write this to demean or ridicule anyone, I write it because it is a fact and people need to be aware of the facts. If you

have the facts in front of you, then you can make valued decisions, having a better chance of avoiding deception. If you do not have the facts in front of you then you cannot make valued decisions and the chances of becoming deceived are greatly enhanced. It is the Holy Torah that gives you the information to guard you against deception. It is the Holy Torah that allows you to make valued decisions. Did not Yeshua Himself use the Torah to rebuke Satan and make a valued decision?

“Then Yeshua was led by the Spirit out into the desert to be put to the test by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which He was hungry, and the tester came and said to Him, ‘If You are Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.’ But He replied, ‘Scripture says; Human beings live not on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’. The devil then took Him to the holy city and set Him on the parapet of the Temple. ‘If You are Son of God, he said throw yourself down; for scripture says: ‘He has given His angels orders about You, and they will carry You in their arms in case you trip over a stone.’ Yeshua said to him, scripture also says: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ Next taking Him to a very high mountain, the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. And he said to Him, ‘I will give you all these, if You fall at my feet and do me homage.’ Then Yeshua replied, ‘Away with you Satan! For scripture says: ‘The Lord your God is the One to whom you must do homage, and Him alone you must serve.’” Then the devil left Him, and suddenly angels appeared and looked after Him.” Matthew 4:1-11 [NJB]

I believe I am on safe ground if I say, “If it is good enough for Yeshua to adhere to the wisdom of Torah, then surely it is good enough for you and I”. Far too many of us [The Children of Israel] have fallen fowl to the promises of Satan due to our pride and ignorance. We have a history of wanting all the “kingdoms of the world” instead of Torah. Our fallen nature and refusal to be born from above, according to a true biblical position, has caused untold damage to our nation. The Children of Israel have been deceived into putting their faith and faithfulness into the words of men rather than the Word of HaShem.

I am absolutely persuaded, that unless we learn to adhere to the Torah and HaMoshiach Yeshua we will not be able to withstand the deceptions that

are coming when coupled with the “offerings” attached. There is constant talk about the “immediate” appearance of Moshiach amongst Orthodox Judaism and within much of Christianity. Some within the Orthodox community are stating that HaMoshiach is already walking the earth. The scene is ripe for one major deception concerning HaMoshiach. The very words of Yeshua echo in my ears.

“If anyone says to you then, ‘Look, here is Moshiach,’ or ‘Over here,’ do not believe it; for false Messiahs and false prophets will arise and provide great signs and portents, enough to deceive even the elect, if that were possible. Look! I have given you warning.” Matthew 24:23-25 [NJB]

It is the word of Yeshua that warns us and the word of Yeshua is Torah. Without both Yeshua and Torah in your life, you will be deceived. It is going to be difficult to withstand deception with knowledge of Yeshua and Torah but without these you will have no hope.

May the grace, love and wisdom of HaShem and Yeshua HaMoshiach be with you!