



The world we live in is constantly changing. To me, this is most evident when it comes to information. I remember, that as a young adult, I trusted the media. Generally, I believed what was on the three network channels and PBS as being the truth. Then, as time went on, something changed; it became more and more obvious that the “news” was becoming increasingly more slanted. Within the past decade or so, the “news” seems to have been replaced by propaganda. More than that, propaganda has been transformed into outright political attacks filled with hate.

The deception of all the media is apparent and both disheartening and alarming. Yet, deceit is not a new concept, only the medium is different.

Consider this passage from the book of Joshua...

### Joshua 9 (World English Bible)

<sup>1</sup> When all the kings who were beyond the Jordan, in the hill country, and in the lowland, and on all the shore of the great sea in front of Lebanon, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard of it <sup>2</sup> they gathered themselves together to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord. <sup>3</sup> But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho

and to Ai, <sup>4</sup> they also resorted to a ruse, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks on their donkeys, and wine skins, old and torn and bound up, <sup>5</sup> and old and patched shoes on their feet, and wore old garments. All the bread of their provision was dry and moldy. <sup>6</sup> They went to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him, and to the men of Israel, “We have come from a far country. Now therefore make a covenant with us.”

<sup>7</sup> The men of Israel said to the Hivites, “What if you live among us. How could we make a covenant with you?”

<sup>8</sup> They said to Joshua, “We are your servants.”

Joshua said to them, “Who are you? Where do you come from?”

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, “Your servants have come from a very far country because of the name of Yahweh your God; for we have heard of his fame, all that he did in Egypt, <sup>10</sup> and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon and to Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroth. <sup>11</sup> Our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, ‘Take provision in your hand for the journey, and go to meet them, and tell them, “We are your servants. Now make a covenant with us.”’ <sup>12</sup> This our bread we took hot for our provision out of our houses on the day we went out to go to you; but now, behold, it is dry, and has become moldy. <sup>13</sup> These wine skins, which we filled, were new; and behold, they are torn. These our garments and our shoes have become old because of the very long journey.”

<sup>14</sup> The men sampled their provisions, and didn’t ask counsel from the

mouth of Yahweh. <sup>15</sup> Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them, to let them live. The princes of the congregation swore to them. <sup>16</sup> At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors, and that they lived among them. <sup>17</sup> The children of Israel traveled and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath Jearim. <sup>18</sup> The children of Israel didn't strike them, because the princes of the congregation had sworn to them by Yahweh, the God of Israel. All the congregation murmured against the princes. <sup>19</sup> But all the princes said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by Yahweh, the God of Israel: now therefore we may not touch them. <sup>20</sup> This we will do to them, and let them live; lest wrath be on us, because of the oath which we swore to them." <sup>21</sup> The princes said to them, "Let them live, so they became wood cutters and drawers of water for all the congregation, as the princes had spoken to them."

<sup>22</sup> Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, "Why have you deceived us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you live among us? <sup>23</sup> Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you will never fail to be slaves, both wood cutters and drawers of water for the house of my God." (emphasis added)

The Israelites were deceived and the influence of the deceivers harmed the chosen nation of Israel in many ways. If only they had consulted God, they could have avoided introducing a destructive ungodly influence into their society.

My advice is: pay close attention to what you are exposed to. Let your life be guided in a spiritual direction by God's word and therefore- chose your sources wisely. Listen to what is being communicated "between the words" and especially the attitude of the author or commentator. Think: some things just do not stand up to scrutiny!

Some things are obvious, like Abraham Lincoln giving advise about the Internet (he died over 100 years before that medium of information was introduced) but others are less obvious.

Jesus gave his disciples some very good advice that still applies to us today:

**Matthew 10 (WEB)**

**<sup>16</sup> "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."**

**Now, these are words worth listening to!!!**