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Watch Out That You Are Not Deceived
Matthew 24:4-6; Mark 13:5-7; Luke 21:8-9
Late in the afternoon
on Wednesday the thirteenth of Nisan

Watch out that you are not deceived DIG: Why would Yeshua warn His talmidim to be on guard and not be deceived? What did He say must happen before the end would come?

REFLECT: The underlying principle of all the Adversary's tactics is deception. He is a liar, a crafty and clever camouflager. What is your defense against his schemes (Galatians 5:13-26)?

Before **Messiah** began to answer **all three questions** (**to see link click Jh – The Three Questions**), **He** decided first to give some general characteristics of **the** Church **Age (Matthew 24:3b)**, none of which meant **the end** had begun. **Yeshua** wanted to make sure that **His apostles** would not jump to conclusions and misinterpret what **He** was saying. So **He** chose to tell **them** of things that would *not* mean **the end** had begun. **There were two general characteristics in the near historical prophecy of the Church Age.**[1323]



The first general characteristic would be the rise of false messiahs. Jesus replied: Watch out (Greek: *blepo*), literally *see to it*, **that you are not deceived.**

For many will come in My name, claiming, "I am He," or **"I am the Messiah," and, "The time is near." They will deceive many, but do not follow them (Mt 24:4-5; Mk 13:6; Lk 21:8).** Historically, **Yeshua of Nazareth** was the first person that claimed to be **the Messiah**. Before **Him**, there were some minor political rebels but none that unequivocally claimed to be **the messianic Deliverer**. After **Him**, however, there were many more. From **Christ's** time until the 1850s there were imposters, from Simon Bar Kokhba to Shabbetai Tzvi and Jacob Frank, who have claimed to be **the Meshiach**. Sadly, **many** have been **deceived**. But the mere existence of these false messiahs did not mean **the end** had **come**. Since **God** promised Isra'el a coming **Messiah**, **He** would also give 354 prophecies on how to recognize **Him** (see **Mu – 354 Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus Christ**).

There is a great counterfeiter who adapts himself to every culture, even deceiving true believers at times. ***He*** *doesn't charge on the scene clothed in red and wearing a hideous mask, but charms* ***his*** *way as* ***an angel of light (Second Corinthians 11:14)****. That's how* ***Satan*** *operates.*[1324]

The second general characteristic of the Church Age would be local wars. **The Lord** stated that when **the Twelve** would continually hear of local **wars and rumors of wars,** but **they** didn't need to **be frightened** because these things would *not* be signs of **the end** of the age. No local war, even in the Near East, will point to **the end**.

In conclusion, **Jesus** said that both false messiahs and local **wars and rumors of wars must happen first, but the end is still to come (Matthew 24:6; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:9).** In other words, the rise of **false messiah's** and long periods of local **wars** will come first. But neither of these things would be signs that **the end** had **come**.