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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.**



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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**.