Counterfeiting the Power of God

In this dispensation of grace, counterfeiting the power of God from Israel's program is part of Satan's policy of evil

A 3-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

About This Series

These are the three sessions of Counterfeiting the Power of God. The subject is the power of God in Israel's program and in this dispensation of Gentile grace, and the adversary's counterfeiting of what God is doing — especially today. Satan's ultimate goal is to be like the most High, resembling God not only in position but in activity; counterfeiting the power is a natural thing for him to do, not a strange thing. In this dispensation of grace the satanic policy of evil counterfeits signs and wonders from God's program with Israel, to get members of the Body of Christ to operate under Israel's program. The major sign and wonder counterfeiting today is the counterfeiting of the sign gifts, and the gift counterfeited more than any other is tongues; profane, vain babblings is the godless counterfeit of the gift of tongues.

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Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
L1	Jannes and Jambres: Counterfeiting God's Power — Pastoral epistle warnings; Isaiah 14; Exodus 7; Deuteronomy 13
L2	Seducing Spirits, Then Doctrines of Devils — Matthew 7; Mark 13; I Timothy 4; II Timothy 2; II Thessalonians 2; II Corinthians 11; I Corinthians 12:1–3
L3	Profane, Vain Babblings: The Counterfeit of Tongues — I Corinthians 12–14; Jeremiah 23; I Timothy 4 and 6; II Timothy 2; refuse, avoid, shun

Lesson Summaries

L1

Jannes and Jambres: Counterfeiting God's Power *Pastoral epistle warnings; Isaiah 14; Exodus 7; Deuteronomy 13*

Paul Warns Us About Counterfeits

- The subject is the power of God, both in Israel's program and in this dispensation of Gentile grace, and the adversary's activities in counterfeiting

what God is doing

- Passages in our epistles about the adversary's operation today are generally completely misunderstood; Paul warns us not to be sucked in, deluded or seduced by counterfeits, and a great majority of Christians today are seduced by them

Seducing Spirits; Profane and Vain Babblings

- Paul deals with believers who had the faith but depart from it; what produces the departure is giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils
- Members of the Body of Christ are the target, and it is all done under a guise that makes it look like real Christianity — "It's gonna be hypocrisy."
- Profane and vain babblings are identified here as tongue talking — the charismatic movement; there was genuine tongue talking in God's program with Israel and at the beginning of this dispensation of grace, but a counterfeit has been established since
- These men teach Bible doctrine but do not handle the Bible properly; they back up erroneous doctrine with spiritual phenomena, and the members of the Body of Christ they seduce buy the phenomenon as the credential

A Form of Godliness (II Timothy 3)

- It has only a form — an outward appearance — of godliness; it denies the real power behind godliness and replaces it with another power
- Jannes and Jambres counterfeited God's miracles through Moses; Paul says just as they did it, so is it gonna be done today
- Paul calls them evil men; they deceive not only others but themselves, and there is more of that going on today than in Paul's day

"I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14)

- Isaiah 14 is a song Israel will sing once the day of the Lord's wrath is over; the fifth "I will," in verse 14, is Satan's ultimate goal behind his entire plan of evil
- His goal is not to kill God but to resemble Him, not only in position but in activity; there is a counterfeiting method of operation in the satanic plan of evil, so that he gets glory just as God gets glory

Pharaoh's Magicians

- God calls them signs and wonders, not simply miracles; God has a reason for allowing the adversary to counterfeit what He does, and that reason still operates in this dispensation of grace
- By satanic power the magicians duplicated God's power through Moses and Aaron up until a point; then God stopped them — what Paul refers to in "they shall proceed no further"
- The magicians thought they operated by the power of Almighty God; it was the power of one counterfeiting the power of Almighty God

Signs and Wonders That Are No Hoax (Deuteronomy 13)

- The Lord warns Israel of signs and wonders through those who call themselves prophets; the sign is no hoax, and you won't be able to tell the difference by what he does — he does exactly what God does, but he won't say what God says
- The counterfeit is defined as counterfeiting signs and wonders God Himself already does; counterfeiting the power is a natural thing for Satan to do, not a strange thing

L2

Seducing Spirits, Then Doctrines of Devils *Matthew 7; Mark 13; I Timothy 4; II Timothy 2; II Thessalonians 2; II Corinthians 11; I Corinthians 12:1–3*

Many Wonderful Works (Matthew 7)

- The Lord speaks of people doing many wonderful works in His name whom He never knew; God did not give them the power, but someone did — part of the satanic policy of evil to confuse things in Israel's program

The Goal: Israel's Program

- That same counterfeiting operates in this dispensation of grace, so that members of the Body of Christ think they ought to be operating in God's program with Israel — back there, or in what is yet to come
- Devils still operate in this dispensation of grace, but not in the exact same way as in Israel's program; their purpose is the objective spoken of in I Timothy 4

How a Spirit Seduces (Mark 13)

- In Mark 13 the Lord, in Israel's program, speaks of what the remnant would face in the last stage: false prophets who back up their message with signs and wonders
- Satan seduces by showing signs and wonders given to validate his doctrine; he has some other doctrine for the dispensation of grace, but he hasn't abandoned the tactic

Seducing Spirits First (I Timothy 4)

- The order is not turned around: the seducing spirit comes first, and once the bait is swallowed, the doctrine comes in and is believed
- The messenger is a real person but not a genuine minister of God — not even a member of the Body of Christ; what he does to seduce is show signs and wonders
- The other doctrine is not anti-Bible: forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from meats can be found in God's program with Israel; the issue is to get you to not rightly divide the word of truth
- Paul says it is sanctified by the word of God: Romans to Philemon sanctifies it; Genesis and on doesn't

Past Already; At Hand

- Hymenaeus and Philetus say there is a resurrection, but it is past already — and if so, you are back in Israel's program
- Teachers of the law (I Timothy 1) and the resurrection past already (II Timothy 2) are both sides of wrongly dividing the word of truth — left hand, right hand
- The false doctrine that the day of Christ is at hand came by spirit, by word and by letter; the objective once again was to get them back under Israel's program

False Apostles; the Counterfeiting of the Sign Gifts

- Satan as the Prince of Darkness worked fine in God's program with Israel; in this dispensation of grace he has transformed himself into an angel of light, and his other gospel is a gospel of justification by good works
- The false apostles at Corinth had signs and wonders backing their ministry; Paul recognized they were genuine, but not of God
- The major sign and wonder counterfeiting in this dispensation of grace is the counterfeiting of the sign gifts; Paul spends more time on tongues than any other gift

- At Corinth someone claiming to speak by the Holy Ghost called Jesus accursed — a counterfeiting of the gift of tongues; the same thing that deluded them as idol-worshiping Gentiles was deluding them again

L3

Profane, Vain Babblings: The Counterfeit of Tongues

I Corinthians 12–14; Jeremiah 23; I Timothy 4 and 6; II Timothy 2; refuse, avoid, shun

Written From the Perspective of Counterfeiting (I Corinthians 12–14)

- Just about everything Paul says about spiritual gifts in I Corinthians 12, 13 and 14 is said from the perspective that counterfeiting is going to be going on; if you don't know that truth, you will be deceived
- The policy of evil counterfeits these things throughout the dispensation of grace, even when God ceased the real ones; the only way to know they are counterfeits is God telling you in His Word that He stopped the real ones
- The three chapters are bracketed in by declarations that the confusion, abuse and misuse at Corinth was all satanically inspired; "God is not *the author* of confusion" (I Corinthians 14:33)

Counterfeited in Two Ways

- Paul sets forth two ways: genuine counterfeiting by a genuine power produced by Satan and his spirits, and people who just fake it for the glory associated with it; tongues, prophecies and healings are the easiest to fake and to counterfeit
- There are three major issues Paul teaches in these chapters; the first: in the lifetime of the Corinthians, God would cease the real thing
- From the time the Corinthians died until today, sign gifts claimed to be of God are not of God — either the genuine spiritual phenomenon of the policy of evil, or people faking it

Tongues: A Sign to Israel

- Four pastoral epistles are counted here — I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus and Philemon; in them Paul sets forth to those three pastors how the policy of evil will work against the local assembly
- A spirit associated with Satan works with an individual to produce a sign or wonder from Israel's program, validating the doctrine of devils; tongues were a sign to Israel, and dealing with that sign thrusts you back into Israel's program

God's Definition of Profane (Jeremiah 23)

- Jeremiah is the genuine prophet of God; the others set themselves up as prophets with a message they said was from God, and God calls them profane: He is not behind them
- Profane means common, not sacred — not of God, though it has the appearance that God is behind it; in God's thinking it is either a counterfeit or a fake

Old Wives' Fables and Vain Babblings

- Profane old wives' fables (I Timothy 4:7) are what comes out of the mouths of those affected by seducing spirits and doctrines of devils — declaring that God is using them, has shown them something, or has given them a dream or a vision
- They are real, but Timothy is to refuse them because God is not behind them;

they are the very signs and wonders God gave to Israel and performed in Israel

- Babblings is communication through a language you do not understand — tongues; profane, vain babblings is the godless counterfeit of the gift of tongues

Their Word, Not God's; Holy Laughter and Holy Roaring

- Hymenaeus and Philetus are called here the original charismatics: it is their word, not God's, though they claim they get a message from God; there is a spiritual phenomenon behind it that is attractive and validating in people's minds
- Paul first says refuse, then avoid, then shun; you can do what Paul says — refuse it, avoid it, shun it — and if you don't, you're not obeying what God says to you
- To support holy laughter and holy roaring, they go to Psalm 2 and Isaiah 42 — passages through Israel's program; the holy laughter is their credentials, and it sends you into Israel's program; avoid all this

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

Israel's Program vs. This Dispensation of Grace

In this dispensation of grace, counterfeiting the power of God from Israel's program is part of Satan's policy of evil. The satanic policy of evil counterfeits signs and wonders God has used in His program with Israel, past or yet to come, and its doctrine accords with that program. The goal is to get you to serve the Lord as if you were an Israelite in Israel's program.

Genuine Tongues vs. the Counterfeit

There was genuine tongue talking in God's program with Israel and at the beginning of this dispensation of grace; a counterfeit has been established by the policy of evil since that time. The sign gifts did operate at the beginning of this dispensation of grace, with a limited function; God was going to cease doing what He was doing with the sign gifts.

Seducing Spirits, Then Doctrines of Devils

The seducing spirit comes first, showing signs and wonders; then the doctrine comes in, believed because the seduction convinced you the man is real. The doctrines of devils Paul speaks of are not anti-biblical teaching; the issue is to get you to not rightly divide the word of truth.

What He Does vs. What He Says

In Deuteronomy 13 the Lord warns Israel that you won't be able to tell the difference by what the prophet does — he does exactly what God does, but he won't say what God says. I Corinthians 12:3 also indicates that you don't go by what you see, you go by what you hear.

Prince of Darkness vs. Angel of Light

As the Prince of Darkness, Satan worked fine in God's program with Israel; in this dispensation of grace he has transformed himself into an angel of light. His signs and wonders mimic the ones God did that were good and great.

Old Wives' Fables vs. Vain Babblings

The expressions all speak of the same genre — the seducing spirits and doctrines of devils — but of two categories within that genre. I Timothy 4 is the general description of the counterfeiting of the power of God through supernatural spiritual phenomenon; profane, vain babblings is the godless counterfeit of the gift of tongues.

The Remnant of Israel vs. the Body of Christ

In Matthew 7 the Lord gives warnings to the remnant of Israel; in Mark 13 the Lord, in Israel's program, speaks of what the nation and the remnant of Israel would face. James writes of misuse of the tongue amongst the remnant of Israel in their assemblies; Satan was the author of confusion there as well as today. The goal is to get members of the Body of Christ to depart from the faith; that is, to depart from the body of truth that is all about us today, contained in Romans to Philemon, to follow another doctrine.

Key Scripture References

Exodus 7:1–3	God's signs and wonders to be produced in the land of Egypt
Exodus 7:7–12	The magicians duplicate: at least two serpents produced for the one God produced
Exodus 7:15–22	The magicians with their enchantments did the same thing
Deuteronomy 13:1–2	The Lord warns Israel: the sign or wonder is no hoax; the prophet does exactly what God does, but won't say what God says
Job 4	Eliphaz: a perfect example of causing yourself to dream and thinking God gave the dream
Psalm 2	Used to support holy laughter; it sends you into Israel's program
Psalm 115:1–8	Something made the Gentiles think idols were gods and had life
Isaiah 14:12–14	Israel's song after the day of the Lord's wrath; the fifth "I will" is Satan's ultimate goal
Isaiah 42:13	Used to support holy roaring as a sign the day of the Lord's wrath is ready to come; with Psalm 2, a passage through Israel's program
Jeremiah 23:11, 15, 21, 25	God's definition of profane: prophets He is not behind, claiming visions and dreams

Matthew 7	The Lord's warnings to the remnant of Israel: many wonderful works in His name; God didn't give them the power
Mark 13:21–22	The final installment: signs and wonders to seduce the remnant of Israel
I Corinthians 10	Satan has a counterfeit for the Lord's table
I Corinthians 12:1–3	Paul's warning at the start of the sign gifts; dumb idols that could not talk; the message "Jesus accursed"
I Corinthians 13	The last half: Paul declares the cessation of the real sign gifts
I Corinthians 14:33	God is not the author of the confusion at Corinth; someone else is
II Corinthians 11:1–4	Men who preach the Lord Jesus Christ and talk about the spirit in another way than Paul; Satan, behind them, wants doctrinal corruption
II Corinthians 11:13–15	False apostles; Satan "transformed into an angel of light"
II Thessalonians 2:1–2	By spirit, by word, by letter: the day of Christ at hand
I Timothy 4:1–4	Seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; forbidding to marry, abstaining from meats
I Timothy 4:7	Profane old wives' fables: what comes out of the mouth of those affected
I Timothy 6:20–21	Profane and vain babblings; the goal is to err concerning the faith
II Timothy 2:15–18	Right division stands against the systems designed to get you back in Israel's program; Hymenaeus and Philetus say the resurrection is past already
II Timothy 3:5–9	A form of godliness; Jannes and Jambres; they shall proceed no further
II Timothy 3:13	Evil men who deceive not only others but themselves; more of it today than in Paul's day
James 3:13–16	Written about the remnant of Israel in their assemblies; confusion produced through the tongue