

FAKE NEWS

How Satan's Lies Are Deceiving Millions

JIM GILLEY



Pacific Press®
Publishing Association

Nampa, Idaho | Oshawa, Ontario, Canada
www.pacificpress.com

“Fake News” Is Nothing New!

We hear a lot of talk today about “fake news.” When I was growing up, people trusted newspapers and the commentators on TV and radio news broadcasts. There were only three major TV networks back then, and we believed the things we heard on the nightly news. Today we have access to many cable news outlets broadcasting 24/7, and they all seem to have a slant on the news—right, left, conservative, or liberal—so that you can listen to the news program that agrees with your own view of things. Mainstream media and cable news outlets are equally to blame for all the confusion, quoting unnamed sources and putting out stories that agree with their point of view.

News programs have become creative, not only reporting what’s happening but also endlessly discussing and commenting on it. For many, the news has become more about entertainment than about information. No wonder we hear accusations of “fake news” being hurled left and right.

And it’s not just cable TV programs. The internet is a source that can be partially or entirely false. Social media provides outlets for anyone to

“Fake News”

post almost anything, making it very difficult to know what’s true and what isn’t. Opinion disguised as fact, disinformation, and outright lies abound on the internet. As a result, elections are affected, reputations are ruined, and world leaders are embarrassed or are even sometimes forced to resign. Much of what is on the internet and social media sites can’t be relied on. It is “fake news”!

Pure truth is hard to come by, not only in the news but in the world of business. We’ve all learned to take the claims of TV commercials with a grain of salt. That product can’t *really* be the most beautiful, economical, fastest-acting, newest, and best sleep ever!

Yes, “fake news” is a hot topic right now. In fact, it’s such a hot topic that we sometimes think it has just burst on the scene. The reality is that “fake news” is nothing new. It has been around for a long time—a very long time. It actually started before this world ever existed. “Fake news” began in a most unusual place: it started in heaven.

Heaven?

“But,” someone says, “I thought everything was pure and true and holy and perfect in heaven. How could there be ‘fake news’ in heaven?”

Heaven became tainted with “fake news” when a perfect, holy created being named Lucifer decided he should take God’s place! Here’s how the Bible describes what happened: “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! . . . For you have said in your heart: . . . ‘I will exalt my throne

“Fake News” Is Nothing New!

above the stars of God; . . . I will be like the Most High’ ” (Isaiah 14:12–14).

God created Lucifer as a perfect, beautiful angel, but Lucifer wanted more. He wanted to be “like the Most High.” Of course, we all should want to be like God in our characters. But Lucifer didn’t just want to be *like* God; he wanted to *be* God. He wanted to push God off His throne, take over heaven, and become the ruler of the universe.

So Lucifer rebelled against God in heaven. He began by starting a “fake-news” campaign about God among the angels. We don’t know exactly what his accusations were, but they may have gone something like this: “Do you think God really has our best interests at heart? We shouldn’t have to be restricted by God’s rules and laws; after all, we angels are perfect! Don’t you think God is too strict?” And this continued on and on until the angels became confused. After this “fake news,” some of them began to think that Lucifer was right and that God was not treating them fairly. In fact, Lucifer’s campaign of “fake news” was so successful that about a third of the angels eventually joined his rebellion against God (Revelation 12:4).

Lucifer continued fanning the flames of his fake-news campaign until heaven broke out in open rebellion and warfare. It appears that he and the angels who joined him actually tried to take God’s kingdom by force! War erupted in heaven itself—the very first war.

God’s Word describes what happened in this conflict: “Michael [Christ] and his angels fought

“Fake News”

with the dragon [Lucifer]; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:7–9). War and conflict—those were the end results of the campaign of “fake news” Lucifer started in heaven itself.

Did you notice where Lucifer ended up when he lost the war in heaven and was cast out? He and his angels were cast down to our earth. And did you notice how the Bible describes him? It calls him “Satan,” the one “who deceives the whole world.” Deception. “Fake news.” That is the devil’s signature characteristic. Wherever you find the devil, you will find deception and conflict.

If he is in your home, there will be conflict. If he is in your heart, there will be conflict. You may even find the devil in your church, and if so, there will be deception and conflict in your church. In fact, the devil works harder in churches than he does anywhere else. He’s not worried about bars and casinos and nightclubs. He already controls them. If he can come into the church and deceive people and sow conflict and confusion, he will be all the more successful. That is why there is “fake news” today even in the church. In the Old Testament, Satan led God’s people into idol worship and apostasy over and over again. He didn’t try to get them to reject God and religion completely. Instead, he spread

“Fake News” Is Nothing New!

“fake news” and deceived them into false worship and false ideas about God. He’s still doing the same today.

There is “fake news” in many churches today. Why do different churches teach different doctrines that don’t agree with each other? It is because Satan is continuing the same old “fake-news” campaign he began so long ago in heaven. He is sowing confusion about who God is, what He is like, and what truth is.

But in the midst of the confusion and deception that Satan is trying to bring into religion and into people’s minds, there is one place we can find the pure, unadulterated truth—the Bible, God’s holy Word. The Bible says that God’s holy word is like “a light that shines in a dark place” and that we should pay attention to it (2 Peter 1:19). It says that in God’s Word, the Bible, we find the truth; it is our source of what is true about God and His will for our lives (John 17:17). “The word of the LORD endures forever” (1 Peter 1:25).

Satan has twisted God’s truth to confuse us. He has introduced false concepts and doctrines into the very church itself. So let’s cut through the “fake news” that Satan is pushing. Let’s take a close look at some of these false ideas Satan uses to deceive, and then turn to the Bible to find what the truth really is. That’s what we’ll be doing in the rest of this book. We’ll look at what the Bible says about some important doctrines in order to find out the truth about Satan’s “fake news.”