

The background features a dark blue gradient with a starry space pattern. Overlaid on this are several technical diagrams in a lighter blue color. These include circular gauges with numerical scales (150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260), concentric circles, and curved arrows indicating motion or flow. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and analytical.

# DISCERNING DECEIVERS

**JOSHUA 9:2-3**

## WHY A MESSAGE ON DECEPTION?

1. We are vulnerable to deception when we open up to the spiritual world
2. The truth is being rejected and redefined; we need to know the truth
3. Knowing the truth leads to liberation (whom the Son sets free)





## 2 TIMOTHY 3:13-14

- **But evil people and imposters will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived. But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.**

# ROMANS 16: 17-18

- **And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people.**

# SPIRIT OF DISCERNMENT

- **To judge well; perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtain spiritual direction and understanding; the power to see what is not evident to the average mind; ability to see the truth over error**





- When we know God's TRUTH we are less inclined to be drawn into deception; knowledge of the TRUTH helps identify the FALSE

# JOSHUA 9 AND THE GIBEONITES

- Try to alter your perception
- Tell you what they think you want to hear
- Play on your vulnerability and weakness
- Flat out lie because **THEY** choose to believe what they want and think others do to (deceive themselves – 2 Tim. 3-13-14)
- Will ask for ANY-thing as long as they get SOME-thing from you



# DEALING WITH DECEPTION

- 1. Seek the LORD for His will and direction**
- 2. Don't let the failures of others shake your FAITH**
- 3. Show them GOD'S mercy and grace**