

PROPHECY COUNTDOWN

January 2000

The Great Delusion

*"The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because **THEY REFUSED TO LOVE THE TRUTH AND BE SAVED**. For this reason God sends them a **POWERFUL DELUSION** so that they will **BELIEVE** the **LIE...** (and) they will be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*

(II Thessalonians 2:9-12 NIV & KJ)

Noted Prophecy "scholar", Dr. Tim LaHaye has recently co-authored the popular series of books entitled: **LEFT BEHIND**. Six books have been published with the 7th scheduled for release in 2000. This best selling novel has captivated audiences in both Christian and secular bookstores, and is based upon the premise that the Rapture is about to take place and ALL Christians will be removed from planet Earth. Ironically, this popular series may be one of the main tools God is using in these last days to send the Church a powerful delusion.

The information in the attached newsletter is vital for the Church to understand. Time is very, very short and the current church of Laodicea needs to wake-up before it is too late! We encourage you to make copies of the enclosed and give to your family, friends, and church members. Also, make sure you give copies to your Pastors and other leaders in your churches and tell them to visit our web site for more information: www.ProphecyCountdown.com

Most prophecy teachers and Bible scholars are operating under the "strong delusion" that God has sent out. We are humbly grateful that God has allowed us to see this and understand about the truths of the Firstfruit Rapture.

The problem with the Church today is the fact that they do not truly love the truth, but rather have "pleasure in unrighteousness." They don't have "ears that can hear" the message of the coming Separation. As David Wilkerson said in his book *The Vision* (page 59):

"The message of coming judgement and the return of Jesus Christ will not register with so many Christians for the same reason that the message and the pending doom did not get through to Noah's generation - because they were so in love with the pleasures of buying, selling, planting, and love-making. "

In our book: *THE COMING SPIRITUAL EARTHQUAKE* we did not completely understand the meaning of the **POWERFUL DELUSION** that God sends. As Proverbs 27:17 says: *"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."*

Our good friend, Lyn Mize, has been given some keen insight into this subject. Because we believe time is so short, we feel God wants this message out to the Church while there is still time. Once the *SPIRITUAL EARTHQUAKE* takes place it will be too late! Don't be **Left Behind!**

Strong Delusion to Believe THE LIE

by Lyn Mize

“This passage of Scripture (II Thess. 2) is one of the most misunderstood passages in the Bible. The first error that theologians make in interpreting this passage is to assume it is talking about spiritually unsaved people. This passage is addressing believers who are not open to the truth of the Word of God, and consequently lose their soul at the Judgement Seat of Christ. There has been much speculation about the lie that will apparently come from God, so that many will actually prefer to believe this lie over the truth. There are three primary questions that need to be answered in order to understand this passage. I will state and answer these 3 questions & then address the questions in more detail from Scriptures not from mere speculation.

Question 1: What is the lie that God would actually send out? Answer: Paul gives the subject of the lie in the first few verses of this subtopic. The subject of the lie pertains to the Second Coming of our Lord and the Rapture of the Church. The actual lie itself is that the ENTIRE Church will be Raptured before the Tribulation begins.

Question 2: Who are the recipients of this lie or doctrinal error that come from God? Answer: Paul identifies the recipients of this lie in verse three where he warns the Christians in Thessalonika against this deception. Consequently, the recipients of this lie are Christians.

Question 3: Why would God send out a lie to his own people, the Church, for them to be deceived? Answer: Paul gives the answer to this question in verse 10 by stating that they did not love the truth and refused to receive it. Therefore God sent them what they wanted and loved, THE LIE.

I will now address the questions in more detail within the context of the passage of Scripture where the lie is mentioned. It is paradoxical God would send out doctrinal error to His people, the Church, but the passage clearly explains the reason, which is the Church's refusal to love the truth.

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him." (2Th2:1)

The issue in question is the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together with him. Paul is addressing the brethren or Christians, and he actually beseeches or urgently requests that they pay very close attention to what he is about to say about the coming of Jesus Christ to Rapture the Church.

"That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled...as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (II Thessalonians 2:2-4)

The "day of Christ" in verse 2 above is the Rapture of the Church. This is confirmed in verse 1, which gives the definition...The Thessalonians had been told that the Rapture had already occurred & they were in the day of the Lord. Their belief that they were in the Day of the Lord meant that they had missed the Rapture & they were now enduring the tribulation. Paul wrote to

alleviate their fears and explain when the Rapture would occur. Paul very clearly & succinctly told the Thessalonians the Day of Christ (i.e. the Rapture) would not occur until 3 distinct and separate events occurred. These 3 events are the apostasy, the revealing of the antichrist, and anti-christ establishing himself in the temple claiming to be God. The Rapture of the church is clearly and definitively stated by Paul at the time the anti-christ will establish himself in the temple and claim to be God. Of course, the anti-christ will reveal himself at the beginning of the tribulation, immediately after the apostasy.

The "*apostasy*" is a definite, distinct and clearly identified event that will take place, and all Christians will recognize the exact time that this event will transpire. The apostasy is not a process of something that transpires over a long period of time, such as a falling away from the faith or a rebellion against God. The revealing of the anti-christ and his establishment in the temple are also events that will be clearly identified as taking place at a certain moment in time. Paul gave the Thessalonians three distinct and recognizable events that would take place before the Rapture would. It would be ludicrous for Paul to give the revealing of the anti-christ as an event to watch for if the whole Church were going to be in heaven at the time.

The apostasy is probably the most misunderstood event in the Bible, because of the gross mistranslation of the transliterated Greek word *apostasia* as "falling away." This same Greek word is used 5 times in the New Testament: Mark 10:4, Matt. 19:7, Matt. 5:31 Acts 21:21,& 2 Thess. 2:3. It is translated "divorcement" in the first three, "departure" in the 4th, and "falling away" in the 5th.

Divorcement - departure would be an accurate translation, but falling away is completely without merit. A better translation from the above Scriptures would be "separation." The following is the definition of divorcement straight out of the American Heritage:

di'vorce'ment n. Complete separation.

Divorcement would be a highly appropriate translation of *apostasia*, as in the first 3 instances, since it is a time that Christ will "put away" those in the Church who have been unfaithful. An accurate paraphrase of this would be:

"Let no man deceive you into thinking that the Rapture has already occurred, for the Rapture will not occur until the separation takes place, the anti-christ is revealed and anti-christ presents himself as God by opposing God and exalting himself. Antichrist will even set himself up in the temple and present himself as God. Don't you remember that I told you these things when I was with you." (II Thess 2: 3-5)

Paul tells the Thessalonians the Rapture has not occurred, and that it will not occur until after the Separation takes place and the anti-christ is revealed and sets himself up in the temple. The above information in the Scripture provides the truth about the Rapture of the Church. Paul had even told the Thessalonians in person about the coming Separation and the exaltation of the Man of Sin before the Rapture and he now reiterates this truth to them.

"And now ye know what withhoI deth that he might be revealed in his time" (2 Th.2:6)

In this verse Paul summarizes what he has just stated in the preceding verses. He has told them about the Separation of faithful Christians before the anti-christ is revealed. He then states that

they now know what is restraining evil. The following verse firmly identifies that which is restraining evil, as it will continue to restrain evil until it is taken out of the way. Then evil will be allowed to run rampant upon the earth.

The restrainer is those Christians who will be removed at the time of the Separation. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, confirmed this when he clearly stated the faithful Christians were the salt of the earth. Salt is that which hinders or prevents corruption or putrefaction, which symbolizes evil. This is seen in the following verse:

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men" (Matt. 5:13).

Jesus even stated that if the salt lost its savor, then it is good for nothing & will be cast out: "to be trodden under foot of men." This simply means that if a Christian has lost his distinctive ability to restrain evil, then he will be cast out at the time of the Separation to be persecuted by men.

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way"(2 Th2:7)

Paul continues to explain the Separation by saying the mystery of evil is continuing to work; but that which restrains evil, or that hinders its progression will continue to operate until it is taken out of the way. In other words, the faithful Christians who have not lost their savor will continue to restrain evil in the world until these same faithful Christians are removed from the earth at the time of the Separation, or the Firstfruits Rapture.

The whole context of this passage from the Scripture pertains to the Separation of the faithful ones who restrain evil by being like salt, and when they are gone the Wicked One (i.e., the anti-christ) will be revealed. Evil will then run rampant upon the earth when those Christians who have been cast out will be trampled under foot or persecuted by the anti-christ and his evil men. It is very important to note that they are cast out because they have lost their savor, or their distinctive ability to restrain evil.

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (2 Th. 2: 8).

This verse continues the pronouncement that anti-christ will only be revealed after the restrainer has been removed from the earth. It is the Holy Spirit that does the removing and not the one who is removed. This is one of the biggest errors in today's Biblical understanding - to think that the restrainer is the Holy Spirit. This is actually part of the lie that God has sent out to those who do not love the truth, but prefer to believe THE LIE that the Rapture will happen before the tribulation period & before anti-christ is revealed.

"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (2 Thes.2:9).

This verse continues the description of the anti-christ as the one whose coming is after the working of Satan with power, signs and lying wonders. The word for working means superhuman power, and the signs & lying wonders are supernatural & from Satan himself.

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thess. 2:10 KJV).

This verse confirms that the coming of the anti-christ will be the grandest deception of mankind since Satan deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden. The translation from the New International Version is as follows:

"and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved" (2 Thess. 2:10 NIV).

"Those who are perishing" are Christians who are not faithful. They are not faithful because they do not love the truth that is clearly set forth in the above Scriptures. It is because of this preference for THE LIE that it is God who sends out the "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."

*"For this reason **God** sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie" (2 Thess. 2: 11 NIV)*

I reiterate that it is God who sends the "powerful delusion" - "to believe the lie" because they did not love the truth. It is difficult to understand why God would send out error to the Church, but we must understand that this is what they prefer.

2 Timothy 4:3-4, confirms that the Church in the latter days will prefer doctrinal error to the truth:

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. "

The Church has even interpreted this passage as referring to the spiritually unsaved, but the truth is that it refers to the majority of Christians in the Church today. The doctrinal error is that the entire Church will be raptured before the tribulation period starts, and no Christians will suffer under the persecution of the anti-christ.

As Paul stated, this "powerful delusion" is rampant in the Church and the great majority of the Church is deceived. Most pastors and teachers in the Church today' teach this doctrinal error. Is God surprised and disturbed by this doctrinal error having permeated the Church? Absolutely not, for He is the One who has sent the error out to the Church in response to the Church's refusal to love the truth. Will those in Church who believe this error be responsible for their beliefs? Absolutely, as the following states, they will be judged & punished for believing this error:

"That they 'all might be censured who believed not the truth, but it pleased them to believe error" (Paraphrase 2Th2:12)

The KJV uses "damned" which in the Greek the word "krino" and it means to be judged, disapproved and punished for refusing to love the truth. This is exactly what is going to happen to Christians who refuse to believe the truth about the Separation (or Firstfruits Rapture of faithful Christians who have not lost their savor).

The teaching about the Rapture of the entire Church before the tribulation period comes from God through the great majority of the pastors and teachers in the Church today. This is what they want to believe, so God has obliged them to believe the error; but they will be greatly censured for it. The most popular authors and teachers in today's Church teach this error. They are Christians who teach it and not Satan's emissaries. This is why this passage clearly states that it is God who sends the strong delusion so that they will believe THE LIE.

One easily sees how strong this delusion (i.e. doctrinal error) is when a Christian tries to teach the truth about the Rapture of Firstfruit believers. This Christian is smitten, persecuted, ostracized, and made an example of for all to see. There are few stouthearted Christians who are willing to stand up to all of the Christians operating under this strong delusion.

I have seen numerous Christians fight the doctrine of the Separation (that is about to take place) www.ffruits.org/firstfruits/theseperation.aspx in spite of the numerous and clear passages of Scripture that teach this truth. It is this "strong delusion" that causes otherwise sincere and trustworthy Christians to pervert and distort the Scriptures to mean something other than what they clearly state. These Christians are operating under the "strong delusion" and they are unteachable.

It is very frustrating for those of us who clearly see the Firstfruits Rapture in literally thousands of Scriptures. It is very important for us to be patient with these Christians who are unable to see it, because they are operating under the strong delusion (sent out by God). One day soon all of these Christians are going to see and understand the Firstfruits Rapture. We need to pray that they **will** overcome this delusion and see it before the Firstfruits Rapture takes place."

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MUST READING FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN