

God Will Send Them Strong Delusion

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BIG SANDY, Texas—The world is filled with delusion. There is an interesting scripture in the book of Isaiah that mentions the conflict between good and evil. Notice Isaiah 5:20.

Isaiah 5:20—"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Who is responsible for all the delusion in this world? How is the devil involved? How is God involved?

Role of devil

Most religious people believe in the devil, and they are able to show scriptures about his involvement in delusion. Following are a few of those verses.

- Genesis 3:1-6
- Matthew 13:19
- John 8:44
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
- 2 Corinthians 11:3
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
- Ephesians 2:2-3

How is God involved?

Yet there are also scriptures that include God's involvement in delusion. Here's one.

2 Thessalonians 2:11—"And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie."

How does God send delusion? I would like to quickly remind you about the book of Job so that we can recognize how God has worked in the past.

- God initiated Job's trial—Job 1:8 and Job 2:3.
- God allowed Satan to provide the details of the trial—Job 1:11 and Job 2:4-5.
- God approved the details of Satan's plan (while putting boundaries upon Satan's influence)—Job 1:12 and Job 2:6.

Back to 2 Thessalonians

What was the context in 2 Thessalonians 2:11 about God sending delusion? People were troubled about the events surrounding the return of the Son of God (verses 1-2).

The apostle Paul reminded them about two factors—the falling away and the man of sin being revealed (verse 3).

Paul gave some descriptions about the man of sin (verses 4). In verses 7-12, Paul gave some additional descriptions about the lawless one.

- Verse 7—Mystery of lawlessness
- Verses 8-9—The lawless one
- Verse 10—The people did not receive the love of the truth.
- Verse 11—The people would believe the lie.
- Verse 12—The people did not believe the truth.

What is truth?

At this time, I want to mention a few comments about truth.

- Some religious people believe that “the Truth” is some specific doctrine (or doctrines) that only they can perceive.
- Truth is much bigger than merely doctrinal interpretations.
- Truth is that which is true.
- Do you love truth?
- Beware of emotionally clinging to error.

Two powerful tools

In 1 Corinthians 2:11, Paul mentioned two powerful tools to help people recognize truth—the spirit of the man (human reasoning as created by God) and the Spirit of God.

- The Spirit of God is far superior to the spirit of the man.
- It is possible for the spirit of the man to interfere with the effective working of the Spirit of God within a person.
- But human reasoning is a blessing from God. God created us to perform thinking functions far superior to cockroaches and the other animals that we can mention.

Good thinking skills

Following are a few scriptures to remind us about an effective spirit in man.

Matthew 7:1-5—“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye,

but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

1 Corinthians 10:12—"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

Ephesians 4:26-27—"Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil."

2 Timothy 2:14-16—"Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness."

Hebrews 5:13-14—"For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

James 1:19-20—"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

Relationship with God

Following are a few scriptures to remind us about the Spirit of God.

Romans 8:11—"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit [which] dwells in you."

Romans 8:16-17—"The Spirit [itself] bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

Ephesians 4:23-24—"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."