

HopeNET



Unwrapping 2Thessalonians 2.11For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

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Unwrapping 2Thessalonians 2.11 *For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie*

The idea of God deluding people and causing them to believe a lie seems to contradict other Scriptures where He longs to reveal truth to enlighten folks.

Notice that it is “the” lie, the father of all lies and it is promoted by non other than the ‘man of lawlessness’ who while he is already at work will come to a head before the coming of the Lord at a particular period called the “rebellion”. Against all this are those who delight in the truth.

The whole of this second chapter of second Thessalonians should be read to understand verse eleven. The apostle Paul is urgent about clearing up misunderstanding on the coming of the Lord. We often think of Paul giving extensive teaching on justification by faith. He did so but he also laboured to provide truth on end times; *Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?*

This is about times when society is impacted by powerful propaganda which attacks the Bible and revealed truth. It is so arrogant as to eventually lift up a famous personage who will attempt for a short time at least, to mimic the place that God Himself has won through the cross; *He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.* Some believe that at this time the rebuilt Jerusalem temple will be abominated with false worship. It may also mean apostasy in the false church.

Will societies and nations be so readily duped especially when it seems we are so scientific clever and rational? But by beginning to reject the truth we become terribly vulnerable to being deceived; *The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.* In fierce jealousy Satan longs to kill off the ones for whom Christ died!

More detail is given here with the subject of the Beast which focusses on the same period. The beast will deceive using the pleasures, comforts and securities of this world . Maybe through this system whole societies will have access to guaranteed income, health care and personal security. But its compulsory payback will be the requirement for people to worship the persona of this blasphemous system and deny Christ; *every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.* It is probably also to be seen in the delusion of IS murderers who believe they are doing Allah's will.

So why does *God send them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie* ? Actually this is not the first time we find this in the Bible. Humans can be become so stubbornly arrogant to do evil and ignore God that He can only give them **the full taste of what they insist on**. He hands them over. He withdraws His restraining of wickedness. Though amazingly patient, God is just and mankind is made in His image, with choice.

Notice this sending of a delusion comes after people time and again choose the lies of Satan; *and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.* God does so much, all he possibly can to guard the truth on earth. He sends prophets, He has raised up the church with all kinds of ministries and spread it abroad. Indeed the very work of the Holy Spirit described in John's Gospel convicting the world of guilt, is on the side of all humanity but many continue in utter hardness to reject the truth.

The remedy ,or the safe way, is to hold the truth dear and frequently keep washing and refreshing our minds with revealed truth, welcoming the Holy Spirit's guidance and using the means of grace the Lord has provided to guard us in salvation.

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