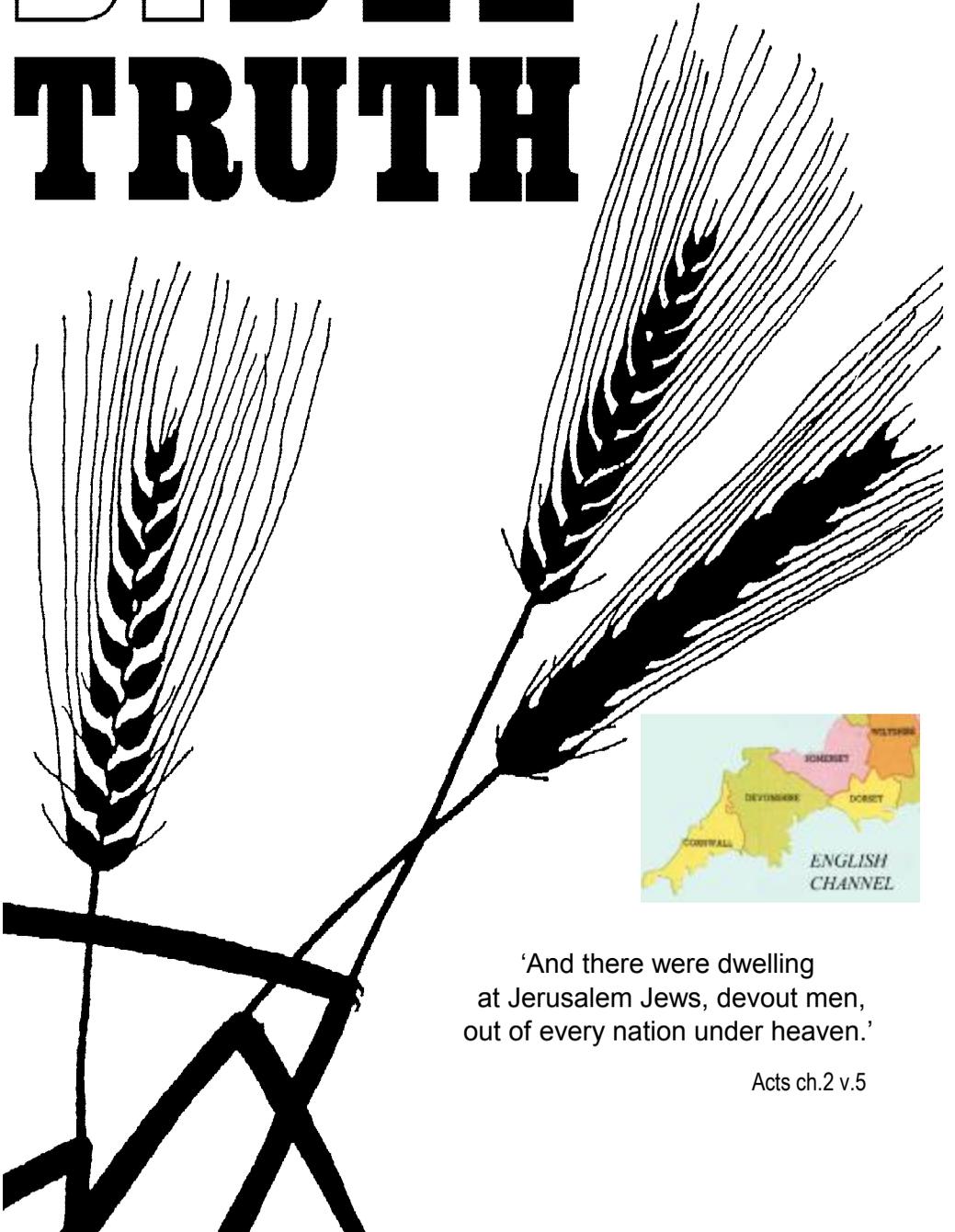


# BIBLE TRUTH

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‘And there were dwelling  
at Jerusalem Jews, devout men,  
out of every nation under heaven.’

Acts ch.2 v.5

# GOD'S DELUSION

by John Trotter

*'And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion,  
that they should believe a lie:'*

2 Thessalonians ch.2 v.11

(Read also Isaiah ch.66 v.4)

The dictionary says that the word 'delude', means 'to deceive the mind or mislead'. In the Bible the word delusion or delusions only appears in the above two references. *Strong's Concordance* shows that the definition of the word 'delude' as given in the dictionary, does not fully cover the meaning of delusion as expressed in the Bible.

Before I proceed, the word 'strong' needs to be commented upon. According to *Strong's Concordance* (1753) 'strong' ενεργεια (energeia) means (effectual) working'. *Strong's* (1756) shows that elsewhere and from the same root it is used in the sense of being 'active, powerful'. This delusion has to be very effective because of the reasons given in Thessalonians.

'That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.'

2 Thessalonians ch 2 v:12

'The people coming under this delusion are just not ordinary everyday sinners but are deliberately well pleased' (Bullinger), and consciously being unrighteous in their sins. Ferrar Fenton says they 'approve falsehood'. They also delight in wickedness.

These rebellious people have joined with Satan who has become an angel of light (2 Corinthians ch.11 v.14). They have become his willing servants and have transformed themselves into servants of righteousness. 'Their end will be the same as their works' (Ferrar Fenton). They are contrary to all men (1 Thessalonians ch.2 v.15). These foregoing few thoughts should explain why the delusion has to be 'strong'.

We shall now look to the meanings of the word 'delusion' as given in the above two verses. In the case of Isaiah ch.66 v.4 (*Strong's* 8586) it means 'caprice, vexation that is to annoy or distress'. Caprice means, 'impulsive change of mind'. An interesting cross reference is to be found in Isaiah ch.3 v.4 which says, 'And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them'.

The book by John MacArthur, entitled '*The Truth War: Fighting for Certainty in an Age of Deception*' is a valuable contribution to having an insight into the dangers of the Emerging Church. The following is one of many quotes that supports the capricious nature of today's churches. On page 17 it says 'Uncertainty is the new truth. Doubt and scepticism have been canonised as a form of humility. Right and wrong have been redeemed in terms of subjective feelings and personal perspectives'.

The *Recovery Version* of the Bible says, 'Just as surely, I will choose what will treat them all'. This is a reference to the vexation, distresses or annoyances that God will choose for Israel. *The Septuagint* says, 'I will choose their mockeries'. A synonym for 'mocking' is derision, laugh to scorn, or hold up to ridicule. Ferrar Fenton says, 'I will delight in their woes'. 2 Chronicles ch.36 v.16 tells the outcome of those who mock God's messengers when it says, 'there was no remedy'.

No matter what version or commentary I examined it became obvious that God's patience with Israel had just about run out. In Exodus ch.32 vv 7-14 it says how Moses pleaded with God not to wipe out His people. Not that God needed reminding but in verse 13 it says that Moses brought to God's attention the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Then in Matthew ch.3 v.9 it says, God could raise up children to Abraham from the very stones beneath Jesus' feet. This response was mostly brought about due to the arrogance of the Pharisees.

Whilst it is true that the Covenants with the Fathers have caused God to keep His eternal promises with His Wife, there are nevertheless times when God's dealings can appear to be quite contrary to His mercy and patience. God's chastising for His people can be directly proportional to the manner in which His people rebel and turn their backs on their creator. Leviticus ch.26 vv 27-28 and Jeremiah ch.34 v.17 express this strained relationship.

On the other hand the meaning of 'delusion' as used in 2 Thessalonians ch.2 v.11 is quite different in meaning (*Strong's* 4106). It infers 'fraudulent, straying from orthodoxy or piety, wandering'. The deceiving as mentioned in 2 Thessalonians ch.2 v.3 and the 'strong delusion' results in a falling away or apostasy. It is this apostasy that has gripped the so called Protestant Churches. Some have suggested that these churches have become the daughters of Rome, for they have been 'loved back into the sheep fold'. Beside forgetting

our Christian heritage there are a number of other reasons that have caused God to send a 'strong delusion' and as a result the people have believed a lie.

Such delusions are not just a post-modern concern, for there existed such issues during the time of the disciples. There were already 'antichrists' or substitutes for the Christ resulting in an ongoing struggle (*Strong's* 500, 1 John ch.2 vv 18-22; 2 John v.7). There was also the Judaic proselytising of the Pharisees (Matthew ch.23 v.15) and Zealots who were trying to take the Kingdom by force (Matthew ch.11 v.12). Then there were the Gnostics and the ongoing beliefs of Simon the Magician (Acts ch.8). Such teachings are the root cause for so much error in theological colleges today. Greek philosophy and the many gods of ancient empires are in full evidence today. In a most unexpected way these delusions were used by God not only to disperse the 'ecclesia' to those areas where the lost children of Israel were scattered, but also to separate the dross from the tin (Isaiah ch.1 v.25). This process was nevertheless very challenging for those who were prepared to take a stand for Christ and oppose authority as defined by man.

From the time of the Church of England's Bishop J.C. Ryle, during the latter period of the 19th century, the churches have generally not heeded the warnings of such great men, including that of C.H. Spurgeon. The cunning craftiness of those who have 'crept in unawares' (Jude v.4) have replaced Christ the head, with slogans such as 'Defender of the Faiths' (plural). They have beguiled many 'unstable souls' (2 Peter ch. 2 v.14). According to *Strong's* the word 'beguile' (1185) means 'entrap, delude, allure, and entice'. In the previous verse of 2 Peter it says that these crafty people 'share in your hospitality' (Ferrar Fenton). These are the tares (Matthew ch.13) who have relied upon the unwitting innocence of many, whilst in the mean time they allure and entice with nice words and friendly gestures their plan to destroy the faith and works of the Saints and the propagation of the Kingdom message. The verses of Psalm 55 vv 12-15 are worth quoting.

'For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it : neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked to the house of God in company. Let death seize upon them, and let them go down

quick into hell (the grave): for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them’.

This delusion is so thorough that many will say to the Lord in the near future,

‘Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?’

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity’.

Matthew ch.7 vv 22-23

It is my opinion that such people are working iniquity within the general context of what is termed Christianity. For those who have studied the infusion of paganism and ecumenicalism into what is called Christianity, will realise that what Christ taught bares little resemblance to the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ on earth. This work of iniquity is not primarily aimed at other major beliefs like that of Hinduism or Buddhism for ‘Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God’ does not exist in their teachings. But there has been for a long time a world wide movement expressing the view that Christ and the gods of all religions are expressions of faith of the one true God. An example of this is the ‘Christos’ of the Theosophical Society. This again is one of those ‘strong delusions’.

The Bible is very clear about the importance of wisdom, as so wonderfully expressed in Proverbs 1 vv 20-33. To wisely discern between good and evil, (Hebrews ch.5 v.14) between the righteous and the wicked, and between him that serves God and him that serves Him not (Malachi ch.3 v.18), is considered paramount in a mature follower of Christ. The separating nature of discerning is critical in our analysis of God’s ‘strong delusion’, as the following example shows.

‘For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.’

Matthew ch.24 v.24

In the meantime we have been instructed by Jesus to be cautious and wary.

‘Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.’

Matthew ch.10 v.16

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