

March 2012 Newsletter

Return Of Christ

*“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 Thessalonians 2:8*

G. The brightness of Christ's arrival on earth.

*“Whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:” 2 Thessalonians 2:8b ον ο κυριος αναλωσει τω πνευματι του στοματος αυτου και καταργησει τη επιφανεια της **παρουσιας** αυτου.*

Now we want to note again the word *parousia* used for the **coming** of the Lord to earth, which denotes his return to earth, his actual arrival here on the earth. Just as he stated he would do in Matthew 24:27, *“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the **coming** of the Son of man be.”*

To **destroy** is the future active indicative of *katargeo*, which has the idea of rendering inoperative, inactive, that all his evil deeds will be brought to an end. And in the future active indicative it tells us that it will be the Lord Jesus Christ who does this, that it will be done at a point in time in the future, and the absolute certainty of the action.

It says that the Lord *shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming and he will destroy the antichrist*, thereby rendering him inoperative, is by **throwing him into the Lake of Fire**. *“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”*
Revelation 19:20

The word used here for **brightness** is *epiphaneia*, which has as its root the word used for light, *phos*. Now the word *phoster* denotes the source of the light, while the word *phos* refers to the actual light itself. The **sun** would be the *phoster*, while the **sunlight** that lights up the world would be the *phos*. Normally the word *epiphaneia* is translated as appearance, or to appear, which would render this passage as *the appearance of his return, or parousia*, but the translators decided to translate it as the **brightness** of his return.

The word *epiphaneia* was used classically as to become visible, or to show oneself. Which is what we have here, **Christ is now making himself visible to all those who live on the earth**. If God is going to make himself known to man, then he is the only one who can do that, for there is no way that we can see him of our own will and accord, and **he does so in the manner he chooses**.

Man may have heard of the God who rules the universe; man may worship and desire to know this God of the universe, **but man will never see him unless that God decides to reveal himself to man**. So God must show himself, or make himself visible to man. That is the idea of *epiphaneia*. But in the idea of *epiphaneia* there is also the idea of the suddenness of his appearing. He is not visible - but now he is! And something else, there is the matter of the **brightness** of his glory. **When Christ returns to earth, when he appears and becomes visible to all on the earth, he will be brighter than the sun!**

H. The arrival of the antichrist.

“Even him, whose **coming** is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,”
2 Thessalonians 2:9 ου εστιν η **παρουσια** κατ **ενεργειαν** του σατανα εν παση δυναμει και σημειοις και
τερασιν ψευδους.

The first thing we notice here is the word **parousia** used for the coming of the antichrist; the same word used for the coming of Christ Jesus to the earth. As we have seen, the significance of the word **parousia** is on the **presence of the individual!** It is not that he has left his palace, or that he is on his way here, but that he has arrived! It is linked to the word *pareimi*, and when used of persons it meant that the person is present; that he has **arrived**. It was used of rulers, who left their palace to go visit a city in their kingdom. It was also used of the presence of gods at the meals of people, and in a variety of other applications. But the main idea of *parousia* was one of **presence**.

Now concerning Jesus Christ, we know from whence he came before he will arrive here on earth, but concerning the antichrist we do not know from where he comes before his arrival on the scene. He may have come from some laboratory, or he may come from some place in the universe! All we know is that he will arrive here on the scene. In fact, he may already be here, only we do not know this as of now.

The word for **after** is *kata*, which denotes that something is being done according to a particular norm or standard. This tells us that all the laws, activities and everything else that the antichrist will do after he is in political power ruling from Jerusalem, and very well may be doing that prior to his ascension to the throne and being declared as a god, will be according to the working of Satan, that is, according to the ideas and policies of Satan.

Now the word for the **working** of Satan is *energeian*, which has been translated as working, power and sometimes energy. But it really has a different idea behind it altogether. The ancient Greeks regarded *energeian* as the ideas that came to them from the daimones, who they regarded as superior races of extraterrestrial beings from other galaxies, who were lower than the gods, but higher than man.

How these ideas from demons/*daimones* came to them could come as the result of directly speaking to them, or by inspiration. Inspiration, from the Latin – to breathe into, or to blow into, was to produce, fill, or affect with a specified feeling, (emotions), or thought. We use the word inspiration in divine inspiration to denote how God conveyed his Word (ideas) into the minds of the prophets. But Satan has been doing that with his people as well!

Now just as the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was filled with the Word of God, which articulated the ideas and thinking of God, and came here to earth with those ideas in him, and whose goal on earth was to carry out the will of God in this matter of God's mind, so will the son of Satan, the antichrist, operate here on earth according to the standard of speaking and enacting all the ideas that Satan has for the world and all life on the earth!

He will do this by the use of the **all power**, *dunamis*, that Satan will empower him with, not the all power that God possesses, but all the power of Satan that will be made available to him to accomplish Satan's will on earth. Included in this will be the showing of false signs and wonders to deceive the people on earth and to help establish his claim as being god, or a god. This will be done on or about the time when he is revealed by the pope as a god, as an exhibition of him being a god.

I. No love of the truth.

“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 Thessalonians 2:10 και εν παση απατη της αδικιας εν τοις απολλυμενοι α ων την αγαπη της αληθειας ουκ εδεξαντο εις το σωθηναι αυτους.

All deceivableness of unrighteousness is *pase apate tes adikias*. *Apate* is the word for deceivableness, or deceit, and it means to give a false impression, either through information given to the mind, or fed to the senses. Outright lies can be told, half truths can be told, truths can be used, any distortion of the truth can be used, as long as it steers someone away from the truth of the point, or conclusion.

Unrighteousness deceives. It loves deceit and produces deceit. While righteousness loves the truth and rejoices in the truth. *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” John 3:19* The darkness here refers to sin, to evil and unrighteousness. The light here refers to the truth, to truth incarnated. *“For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.” John 3:20*

The NIV has this verse as, *“And all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.” 2 Thessalonians 2:10* The KJV translates this as all deceivableness of unrighteousness, but it can also be translated as **every sort of deceit that unrighteousness produces.**

Satan, working through his half human, half alien son, the antichrist, is going to so empower him and his representative, the false prophet to be able to perform all sorts of signs, miracles and wonders, but for the purpose of deceiving people. Now Paul called these wonders lying wonders, but in the gospels we see that they are not classified as being false! *“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 24:24* *“For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to **seduce**, if it were possible, even the elect.” Mark 13:22*

To **deceive** in Matthew is *planao* and to **seduce** in Mark is *apoplanao*. Both of these words refer to being led astray from the truth, or from the right path. **But before one is led astray, they are always deceived in some manner.** Something has so acted upon them as to give them a false impression. What gives them a false impression is the signs and wonders. Now it matters little if these are true or false workings of power. The issue is, regardless of whether they are true or false, they serve the purpose of leading the people astray from the truth of God's word and from faith in Jesus Christ.

All the signs and lying wonders performed by the antichrist, which he will use to establish his claim that he is god on the earth, or a god, the messiah of Israel and king of the world, will be used for the purpose of deceiving the people on earth, to deceive them into believing that he is god! They will be led astray from worshipping the true God and will end up worshipping the devil. They will be led astray from accepting Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and will accept the antichrist.

And the reason why is because they will be **deceived!** But they are not innocent in this matter. The root cause for this is not because they were gullible or naive, but because they were **negative to the truth!** The word for **receive** is *dechomai* and it had a passive kind of idea of accepting or receiving something, which reveals that they are openly negative to the truth! It isn't just that they didn't receive a love for the truth, but that **they will be totally negative to and refuse the truth!**

J. Strong delusion.

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

2 Thessalonians 2:11 και δια τουτο πεμπει αυτοις ο θεος ενεργειαν πλανης εις το πιστευσαι αυτους τω ψευδει.

Kai dia touto, “and for this cause”, or, because of this. Because of **what**? Now we will see why God is going to send a strong delusion on them. *Dia plus the accusative indicates the reason why something happens, or the cause of something happening.* It's because they did not receive or accept a love of the truth! The truth was there all along, if they wanted it, but they **refused** it! So God, in his justice, is going to send to the inhabitants of the world a strong deluding influence!

In verse ten the word for **receive** is the orist middle indicative of *dechomai*. As a culminative orist it looks at something happening in a point in time, but this action will be the culmination of what has been going on for quite awhile. Which is to say, that the people of the world will become more and more negative to the truth, blocking it out every time it is put forth before them, and that it will get to the place where it all culminates! And the culmination of their negativity will result in God sending a deluding influence to them. They didn't want the truth, well then, if you don't want the truth, then here's the lie you want to believe!

This reveals a lot about these people during the time of the antichrist, the ones who are perishing, and God's dealing with sinful man. **One**, we see that they do have free will. **Two**, God respects their free will. **Three**, God is fair in his dealing with them in his justice. **Four**, the truth was there all along, all they had to do was accept it. **Five**, this accepting of the truth would not have been a difficult thing, no more so than accepting a glass of water, or a gift, from someone. **Six**, they overtly went out of their way to refuse the truth. **Seven**, decisions have consequences and the consequences here resulted in them having a deluding influence sent to them and them believing the lie. **Eight**, they not only will believe the lie, but worship the antichrist, take the mark of the Beast and forego any opportunity they had to be saved and live forever with God.

The word to **send** is the present active indicative of *pempo*. The futuristic present tells us that this action is certainly going to happen at some point in time in the future from the standpoint of the writer. The active voice tells us that it will be God the Father who is actually sending this deluding influence to them. The indicative mood tells us that this is not imagination, or academics any more, but that it is actually going to happen.

To **send**, *pempo*, was commonly used in the sense of sending someone, such as, a messenger, spy, representative, etc.. Such as the idea we find in Psalm 89:14, “*Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: **mercy** and **truth** shall go before thy face.*” Where **mercy** is *chesed* – grace, and **truth** is *emeth* – truth. And where **justice** is *tsedek* – righteousness, and **judgment** is *mishpat* – justice. Or, as we find in the NIV, “*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.*”

The word for **go before** is *qadam* and it had the idea of sending runners before you. The picture is of a king and his army at the border of a nation poised for invasion, but before he does he sends his runners with the king's offer that if they will accept his terms, he will not do war against them. Here God is poised with his righteousness and justice, but sends his runners of grace and truth. If we accept them, we will not have to face his judgments! If we reject his **grace**, then we will have to face his **justice**! If we reject his **truth**, then there is the only other alternative, the **lies** of Satan!

Strong delusion, or as the NIV has it, *a deluding influence*, is *energeian planes*. Now the word *planes* meant to go astray from the path, and as we have pointed out before, before one has gone from the path to take the wrong path in life the individual has first been **deceived!** Deception always precedes ones taking the wrong path in life. But before one becomes sympathetic to their plight of being deceived in the whole matter, remember the people of the world **refused the truth** first!

Remember our verse in Psalm 89:14, “*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.*”? This tells us that God deals with the inhabitants of the world according to his righteousness and justice. His throne, his government of the universe is based upon those two things. God is always right; he is always holy; he is always just; and he is always fair.

And remember those two runners grace and truth? What this tells us is that before God deals with man, he sends out to man his grace and his truth. If we accept his grace, and that by accepting his truth, then the judgments of his righteousness will be avoided. But if we reject his truth, then we will have to face his righteousness and his justice, and in his justice he will always be fair with us.

So, if man rejects the truth, and it is only the truth that keeps us from being deceived, and it is only the truth that keeps us on the right path, then what man is saying is that they want to be deceived and they don't want to be on the right path. So God sends them a deluding influence resulting in them believing **the** lie about the antichrist, *eis to pisteusai autous to pseudei*. And this is fair because it's what they really want! Just like the Israelites, who were tired of eating the manna that God provided and wanted meat, so he gave them meat where many got sick and died.

We see an example of this in the OT with Micaiah the prophet, Ahab the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah. “*And the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab king of Israel into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?’ One suggested this, and another that. Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, ‘I will entice him. By what means?’ the LORD asked. **I will go and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,**’ he said. ‘You will succeed in enticing him,’ said the LORD. ‘Go and do it.’ So now the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouths of these prophets of yours. The LORD has decreed disaster for you.” 2 Chronicles 18:19-22*

The word for **influence** here is *energeian* and it really has the meaning of to be inspired by ideas! These ideas will be coming from Satan's demons, who will infuse certain ideas from Satan into the minds of the earth's inhabitants. People will accept Satan's ideas as the result of demons directly speaking to them, or by inspiration; (inspiration, from the Latin – to breathe into, or to blow into, was to produce, fill, or affect with a specified feeling, (emotions), or thought). The word **influence** is the action or process of producing effects on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc., on other people. Public schools, rampant drug use, a perfect vehicle for demonic ideas, the Internet, TV and radio, will be used as vehicles for influencing people with Satan's ideas.

What ideas that are in view here are all the concepts connected to the world accepting the antichrist as a perfected god-man, the king of the world and the Messiah of Israel. But also in that will be the idea that the world doesn't need a Savior, that they don't need to have their sins forgiven and that they too can become their own gods! They didn't want to believe in the true God; they didn't want to believe on his Son, Jesus Christ, to be saved from their sins; they didn't want to believe that there is a heaven and a hell and eternal damnation; and they didn't want the truth. So, God will send them a deluding influence resulting in them believing the lie! They'll get what they want, but decisions have their consequences!

This passage has the definite article **the** in it, instead of the indefinite article **a**, which tells us that people's rejection of the truth will result in them, not believing any lie, but **the** lie! What lie? The lie about the whole mystery religion system and the lie about the man of sin, the antichrist. They will believe the lie that he is god, or a god, or a perfected god man, the world's Messiah!

And just to remind ourselves once again as to what the real meaning of antichrist is we need to go back to what the meaning of the preposition *anti*, ἀντι, is. The most common definition portrayed in Christianity today is that it means opposed to Christ, or against Christ. And while that is true, it is an incomplete and simple approach to the idea of antichrist.

The Greek preposition *anti* has three ideas found in its meaning: **equivalence**, **exchange** and **substitution**. It will be that all three of these ideas that will be found in the final man of lawlessness, and in fact, were found in the various religions of the first century of the Church age. Judaism, Gnosticism, Mithraism, the Sol Invictus cult, to name a few.

The first meaning of *anti* is **equivalence**, that the one thing is equal to the other, equal in value, equal in position, equal in power and equal in effect. Which tells us that the antichrist will claim that his **position** is equal to Christ's, which the pope has done for years; that he has the same **power** that Christ has and can **do the same things** that Christ can do; that he can **pardon sin**, which only Christ can do; that he can **bring the sinner into the kingdom of God**, which only Christ can do; that he **functions** as the **High Priest of God**, which position the Father has given only to his Son; that he is equal to Christ in position, rule, power and function.

The second meaning of *anti* is **exchange**, where one person has been exchanged for another. Which tells us that the antichrist has been exchanged for the true Christ, the Lord Jesus. He has exchanged himself for Christ, and those who follow him, have exchanged him for Christ.

The third meaning of *anti* is **substitution**, where one person has been substituted for another. The French term is in lieu of, he has been put in the place of someone else. And here the antichrist has taken the place of the true Christ taking what is his position, his power, his authority, his glory, etc., and by having the world look to him to do what only Christ can do for them.

Now how does the Catholic church fit in all this? Their claim is that before Jesus Christ returned to heaven he gave Peter the keys to the kingdom. *“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”* Matthew 16:19 And the Church claims that these keys have been passed down, through Apostolic succession, from one pope to another.

The idea is as follows: **one**, the Father gave the Son rule over the earth, **two**, ownership of the earth as part of his inheritance, and **three**, the authority to determine who gets to go into the kingdom and enjoy eternal life. But the Catholic church claims that before Christ left the earth he passed this authority, (the keys to the kingdom), on down to Peter placing into his hands: **one**, governance over the entire earth and all the nations and rulers therein. **Two**, actual ownership of the entire earth. **Three**, the sole authority of determining who gets to go into the kingdom of Christ and eternal life. And that from Peter to the popes, the presiding pope holds the authority over these three areas, until Christ returns to earth. Now for the end time pope, the false prophet, to be able to get away the turning of these three areas over to the antichrist means that the papacy will have been taken over, on or way before, by adherents of the New Age, Babylonian mystery religion, masonic groups. The antichrist will be their man.

The world believing the lie about the antichrist will fit right in to their idea of what they are looking for in a world ruler. Many Gentiles could care less if he was man, god, or the devil, as long as he could rule the world efficiently and give them what they want! Also the Gentiles of the world are not looking for a Savior, because they don't think they need to be saved from their sins! The Jews are not looking for a Savior because they don't think they need saving at all, because in their thinking they are already righteous as a race due to them being Israelites. Also the Jews' idea of a Messiah is not one of a Savior, as we know him, but one of a conquering king, who is going to go out and subject all the people of the world to the rule of Jews over them so they can live off the wealth the Gentiles produce!

Now Talmudic Judaism is a Babylonian front organization for Jews, and Catholicism is a Babylonian front organization for Gentiles. Each has their own religious front that they present to the world, but behind the facade is the Babylonian Mystery religion. And when we get into that we find some interesting things. Such as, an alien/demon/celestial being/fallen angel concept of a being from somewhere in the universe who produces a half human, half alien/demon/celestial being/fallen angel with a human mother! These were the Nephilim of old before the flood and after the flood, but they were also the basis of certain and many governments that have ruled the world since then!

The first government after the flood was Babylon, which was started by Cush, who functioned in the role of a false prophet. It is maintained that he got his revelations from an extraterrestrial celestial being, whom he referred to as looking like a peacock angel. He brought his son, Nimrod, into this and later on Nimrod took him a wife, Semiramis. Now later on, after Nimrod died, she said that she had been visited by him in his deified state, after he had gone up to the Constellation Orion, and produced a child named Tammuz. So, by virtue of this, Tammuz became a “god-man” and was the next ruler of the world under Satan. By the way, much, if not most of Israel, worshipped Tammuz!

This same concept was perpetuated in Egypt, the then next world power, where the Pharaohs ruled over the world, and that by virtue of them being the product of a union with a celestial being/alien/demon. The Egyptian account of the record of Osiris, Isis and Horus following the pattern of Nimrod, Semiramis and Tammuz, is as follows: Horus was born to the goddess Isis after she retrieved all the dismembered body parts of her murdered husband Osiris, except his penis which was thrown into the Nile and eaten by a catfish, and used her magic powers to resurrect Osiris and fashion a gold phallus to conceive her son. Once Isis knew she was pregnant with Horus, she fled to the Nile Delta marshlands to hide from her brother Set who jealously killed Osiris and who she knew would want to kill their son. There Isis bore a divine son, Horus.

History also shows that it was Shem, who headed up the true worship of the true God, *Yahweh*, along with other patriarch leaders, held trial on Nimrod, summarily executed him for idolatry, then chopped his body into fourteen pieces to bring around to the fourteen districts under Nimrod's tyrannical rule to show the people he was dead. His penis was thrown into the water either to prevent any children from being born from his seed, or as a symbolic gesture showing no children could ever be born from his seed. The man they called Set in occult history was actually Shem, and Semiramis was probably either Shem's wife or his sister.

This concept of a divine being created from a human mother and an alien father went from Babylon, where Tammuz was the pagan messiah, down to Egypt after Babylon fell, then up to Greece, and after it fell, on into the republic of Rome, where it still exists today. Easter, Christmas, Valentine's Day and many other holidays center around the worship of this pagan messiah, who is Satan's counterpart to the true Messiah, Jesus Christ.

K. Looking up.

“*And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*” Luke 21:28 αρχομενων δε τουτων γινεσθαι ανακουσατε και επαρατε τας κεφαλαι υμων διοτι εγγιζει η απολυτρωσις υμων.

Now why do we go into detail on all these matters that we see unfolding all around us today? To scare us? To depress us? No! But to document that these things that the Bible prophesies are occurring as we speak for the purpose of getting us to lift up our heads, look to the skies and eagerly await the return of Christ to the earth! What teaching on these end times events in detail is designed to do is to get the people of God back to living in the unique spiritual life that God has supplied to all his children.

Now it says, “*when these things begin to come to pass*”, *archomenon de touton ginesthai*. To **begin** is the present middle participle of *archo*, and **come to pass** is the present middle infinitive of *ginomai*. *Archo* refers to the very beginning of something, such as, the beginning of the Church Age, or the beginning of the nation of Israel. There are many things mentioned in this and other passages, that describes the events that will take place before Christ returns to earth. And what the Lord tells us that we are to be looking for are the events that are in the beginning. If we recognize some of the things, due to our study in prophecy, that are to be found down the road, then that tells us that **the beginning has already taken place!** *Ginomai* meant that a change has taken place.

The next thing he tells us is to *look up* and to *lift up our heads*, *anakupsate kai eparate tas kephales humon*. To **look up** is the orist active imperative of *anakupto*, which tells us that this is a command for the people of God, it is a command to start doing, which tells us that believers, at one point in time aren't doing, probably due to the gravity and pressure of everything taking place on earth, and that only the individual believer can do this.

Anakupto, to **look up**, meant to stand up, to stand erect, to lift oneself up with joyous expectation of an event. From the beginning of the latter times of the Church Age all the way into the Tribulation, the pressure that believers will face will increase more and more. Applying the doctrines of maintaining one's own spiritual life will become more and more difficult, and many believers will become discouraged, depressed, and more or less, giving up! But when they are able to recognize that the things the Lord mentioned prior to his return to earth are already taking place, then they are commanded to look up, that is, be encouraged and joyful for **their redemption is drawing nigh!**

To **lift up our heads** is the orist active imperative of *epairo*, which is used figuratively in the passage and meant to lift up one's head toward God in prayer. It has the idea that the believer has been beaten down from all the satanic pressure going on at this time, but when he starts to see key prophetic things take place, then he to be looking toward heaven, toward God, in faith, in prayer and joyful confidence! And there is a time bracket in which all these things will take place and that is **seventy years** from the inception of Israel as a nation, which began in 1949, telling us that the outside bracket will be 2019! “*Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.*” Luke 21:32

And what will be taking place? Our redemption! Our redemption is near! *Apolutrosis* was a commercial term where someone had purchased an item in the shop, but left it with the shopkeeper because he was going on a trip. The owner of the store would take the item, place it in a clay vessel, put a lid on it, and seal the lid. When the purchaser came back, then he would pick it up. This picking up the item he had purchased was the **redemption**. Christ purchased us and is coming back to pick us up.