

## Strong Delusion – Where?

Could WE be deluded into believing MAJOR doctrinal errors, **so that even plain “Thus says the Lord” commands** have been totally ignored or rejected? Let’s find out!

2 Thessalonians 2:10-11, ‘They perish because they refused to **love the truth** and so be saved. For this reason **God sends them a powerful delusion** so that they will **believe the lie**. At the End-Time, there will be a great perversion of the Truth, v.3. The idea that a man can speak for God vicariously has *already* been successfully introduced into the Church of God, despite Revelation 17.....!

*Think* about these verses, please check out every one: God would not have warned us so strongly if there was not great danger to every one of us.

Revelation 13:5, ‘**And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.**’ If the Beast is given 42 months (*almost* 3½ years) to reign, let us notice by working our way back in time through the scriptures from Revelation 13:5 above, WHEN that occurs.....

It occurs -

\* Just *after* Revelation 12:14-16, ‘**But the woman (Church, v6) was given the two wings of the great eagle (Isaiah 40:31) so that she might fly from the serpent (Satan’s Beast) into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.** The serpent poured water (Rev. 17:15, people – the Beast’s army) like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.’

\* That happens just *after* the Beast has invaded Israel as a stepping-stone into the Middle East, breaking his covenant with Israel, [of protection, Daniel 9:27], and causing the people of God there to flee. Compare Matthew 24:16-20, “**then** let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop come down to retrieve anything from his house. And let no one in the field return for his cloak. How miserable those days will be for pregnant and nursing mothers. Pray that your flight will not occur in the winter or on the Sabbath!” .... (Read the article, ‘Division of The Saints’, under “More” then “End-Time”).

Compare the above with:

\*Daniel 11:40-41, “At **the time of the end**, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. **He shall come into the glorious land.** And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites.” (the South part of Jordan)

\* And Daniel 9:27, “And he will confirm a covenant with many for one week [7years], **but in the middle of the week he will put an end to sacrifice and offering.** And on the wing of the temple will come the abomination that causes desolation, until the decreed destruction is poured out upon him.” Berean StudyBible.

ALL these things occur just before the **start** of the GREAT Tribulation! At the half-way point in the 7 year Tribulation, when we put these scriptures together!

\* Matthew 24:15, “The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.” (Reader, pay attention!)” NLT. (The invasion is the sign for God’s faithful people to flee from Jerusalem and Judea (See Matthew 24:16-20, Luke21:21-22), where those who *are* capable have been carrying out God’s plain commands in **Jeremiah 31:6-8.... and Isaiah 40:1, 9-11**, (read it in a modern version eg. NIV), **Isaiah 52:7 and Zechariah 1:17.**) If you want to know *what* message we will deliver, read **Isaiah 51!**

\* Those of God’s people who have been carrying out His work there, as we have seen, will then flee from Jerusalem into the Judaeian wilderness, South and then East towards the Jordanian mountains, because the Beast’s armies invade from Haifa, in the North.

\* We saw that the Beast’s pursuing army is destroyed by Christ. Revelation12:14-16, ‘And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. **And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.** (He hates them for their broadcast, which includes warning not to worship him *when* he comes to full power.)

Also see Zechariah 9:9-10,14-16, and Psalm 18:6-19.

Zech. 9:14-16, ‘And Jehovah shall be seen over them; and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning; and **the Lord Jehovah will blow the trumpet**, and will go with whirlwinds of the south. Jehovah of hosts will defend them; and they shall devour, and shall tread down the sling-stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, like the corners of the altar. And

Jehovah their **God will save them** in that day as the flock of his people; for **they shall be** as the stones of a crown, **lifted on high** over his land.' ASV.

\* In frustration, after the destruction of part of his army, the Beast then turns to attack the remnant 'Laodiceans'. (Revelation 3:14-22) and Rev. 12:17, 'And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the **remnant** of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.' (Strong's 3062, 'the rest, remaining') The churches will not admit this, but the **remnant** is not 50% of the Church (Matthew 25:2) for God's word reveals 50% **of the spiritual virgins** (Revelation 14:1-5, those who look *directly* to Jesus Christ's words and largely support them.) Others of the Faithful may be too old or infirm or not be in a position to actually go to Jerusalem, despite their support (Jeremiah 31:6-7) but will be among **those resurrected**, so the *remnant*, **the remainder**, are very many **more** than 50%! Sadly, if you have been deluded, you don't realise you have been drawn into following the traditions of men which rule out the pure worship and obedience of a spiritual virgin, who rely **on and obey God's words alone**. Mark 7:7, "in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

This huge loss occurs because most of God's people have accepted the common *false* prophecy of a false god, called in the Bible, "the image of the Beast", that can be traced back to H W Armstrong's teaching of "**the government of God**" which promotes a **false 3½ year Tribulation**, as we will see!

\*Progressing still further **back** in the Bible, we find the events of Matthew 24:5-9, "For many will come **in My name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many**. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. These things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **All these are the beginning of birth pains**. Then they will deliver you over to be persecuted and killed, and you will be hated by all nations because of **My name**." **These are the first 5 Seals** = Revelation 6:2-10, which occur over the 3½ years *prior to* the abomination of desolation seen at the end of the first 3½ years, in verse 15 of Matt.24!

\* Before the Second Seal - World War, in which America and Britain fall, the Beast places his token EU force in Israel to 'protect' it. Daniel 11:23, "And after an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a **small force** of people." NASB.

\*This is of course *after* the Beast makes his covenant, compact or league with Israel at the very start of the 7 years, Daniel 9:27, 'And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week....'

\*And finally, it is *after* the **First Angel** of Revelation 14:6-7 flies with his gospel message, the same gospel Jesus Christ brought, to warn **the whole world** to repent,

just **before** the 7 year Tribulation starts, the *real* fulfilment of Matthew 24:14, ‘**And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**’ This miraculous Angelic message is then continued, firstly by the Church of God in Jerusalem during the following 3½ years, and then by the 2 Witnesses during the final 3½ years!

We have worked our way back through the scriptures for 3½ years, and found the start of a **7 year Tribulation – not 3½ years!**

**Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop Stop**

You have read God’s words and found the Truth, but have you realised its deep implications? If not, then maybe, just maybe, the first and last scripture *could* still apply to you.

So, **to whom** has God given this “*strong delusion*”? - **Almost the whole Church of God!** Why? Because we did not love the truth sufficiently to *prove* what we were taught, we just accepted it, as we have with other doctrines, and so were diverted from the truth, and God says we are **destined to perish unless we repent of blindly following the false teaching** of ministers God condemns, for some have taught a lie, that *their false* words represent the ‘**government of God**’. That is a **great and blasphemous lie against the prerogative of God’s words alone!**

Let us understand that while we have no right to expect our leaders to be perfect, for no such person exists, God judges His ministers by a higher standard than the lay Church. Our task, with regard to doctrine, is to judge righteous judgement, John 7:24, “**Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment,**” the recognition of truth or error based upon God’s word, without condemnation, (for we leave that kind of judgement to God) and then act upon it, and that can mean *fleeing from sin*, Revelation 18:4, ‘**And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.**’

We can recognise these ministers by their fruits – the way that *some led their people* into what eventually became the rejection of the Sabbath, the Holy Days and God’s Commands, some into harsh dominion and rulership, many into dependence on the Rabbinic laws and traditions found no-where in the Bible, and others into great confusion about the End-Time.

There is nothing more important than God’s words! **To ignore any of them** is to reject them and your chance of the First Resurrection! No wonder God is angry, Jeremiah 5:31, ‘**The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own authority. My people love it so, but what will you do in the end?**’

How angry is God?

Isaiah 56:11, “The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds **who have no understanding**; they have all turned **to their own way**, each to his own gain, one and all.’ Strong words indeed for the deserving ministers! (Notice the End-Time context).

Of course, ‘**the lie**’ mentioned in the opening scripture is horrific, **mirroring the ruling hierarchical pattern of the whore of Revelation 17**, and evil enough, but *why* is it so pivotal? Have you noticed we have not mentioned the **6<sup>th</sup> Seal**, though we did see that the first **5 Seals** take up virtually 3½ years, **before** the Beast was given his 42 months? Turn to Revelation 14:14-15, ‘Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the **Son of Man**, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: **for the time is come** for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.’

That is the **First Resurrection**, at the **6th Seal**, just as in Matthew 24:29-30, **before** the GREAT TRIBULATION, (**before** the Beast is given his 42 months in the next few verses of Revelation 14!)

The First Resurrection is found in - “Matthew 24:29-30, ‘Immediately after **the tribulation of those days** (First 5 Seals) the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **Then** the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man **coming on the clouds of heaven** with power and great glory.

The First resurrection is also found in - Revelation 6:12,16, ‘When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,’ and ‘They called to the mountains and the rocks, “**Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne** and from the wrath of the Lamb! **For the great day of their wrath has come**, and who can withstand it?’ NIV.

Notice that last sentence is the **7th Seal**, arriving **immediately after** the resurrection - **the GREAT TRIBULATION, for 42 months!**

Revelation 14:17-19, ‘**Then** another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, with authority over the fire, came from the altar and called out in a loud voice to the angel with the sharp sickle, “Swing your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the vine of the earth, because its grapes are ripe.” So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the grapes of the earth, and he threw them **into the great winepress of God’s wrath.**’



**That is why we see the 144,000 resurrected Saints safely on the Sea of Glass in Heaven during this period! Read Revelation 14:1-5, 15:2,5-7.**

*So, the Great Lie results in a completely false understanding that the Resurrection is at the very end, rather than prior to the 3½ year Great Tribulation!* This has prevented most of the ministers of the Church of God accepting that **we have a responsibility to preach a God commanded** message of hope and comfort (as we have seen) to captive Israel and Judah from Jerusalem during the **first** 3½ years of **'the tribulation of those days'**, Matthew 24:29, *before* the 2 Witnesses come on the scene!!!

It has meant that almost all of God's people are unaware of, and will fail to obey God's instructions we referred to, because they have been **directed to a man's** false words rather than Jesus Christ's words. Thus they have unknowingly become part of an **idolatrous system** of *worship* which has diverted the Church from the truth, and which God tells His people to come out of, (Revelation 18:4) and, unless they heed this warning and repent, they will continue to be led by this false '*government of God*' **into the Great Tribulation!** Do not confuse this false doctrine of dominion Jesus Christ condemned, with the true Divine Government of God which will exist in God's Kingdom!

Reader, have you recognised the truth? Have not these scriptures indicated *how few are not deluded* and will repent, and actually support or carry out God's will? Luke 18:8, **"...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"** NKJ. When you believe the teaching that you have been given spiritual riches, spiritual diligence can wane, unless Jesus Christ comes knocking! Revelation 3:17,20.

Well, He is knocking now, but some still believe they were called into a church led by a Divinely inspired man who could make *no* mistakes and so they falsely believe they should remain faithful to *his* teaching and *his chosen* successors! But look where it got them! As Jesus Christ said, Matt. 7:16, **'By their fruits you will know them.'**

If they had been in that church in its early days, they would remember the time when it *was* blessed with 30% growth each year, no-one ever left, and peace and unity reigned, *before* HWA was persuaded by his young ministers to introduce the **"government of God"** to help them control the burgeoning numbers coming into God's Church through its biblical teaching. They would remember how he had faithfully taught against that very system which God calls **"the image of jealousy"** in Ezekiel 8:5-6, and the articles **he had written condemning** it.

Take a look at the evidence from page 6 of "The Good News", April 1939, in **his** article entitled "Did Christ Reorganise The Church?"

“Truely, an IMAGE OF THE BEAST!

Thus was CHURCH GOVERNMENT introduced into the Western world a century after Constantine (the BEAST) injected the idea of the church BOARDS to decide what doctrines the rest of the church must believe. And thus the very PRINCIPLE of CHURCH GOVERNMENT becomes THE IMAGE TO THE BEAST!

The whole thing is FALSE! It is NOT ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE! It is part of BABYLON! Those who are IN, and MEMBERS of such an organised church government, submitting to doctrines declared by unscriptural boards as a fellowship test, are IN BABYLON, and actually worshippers of THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST! And God is calling us OUT OF BABYLON today, before it is too late---before the PLAGUES fall!

Brethren, let us have the courage to accept the TRUTH, and to COME OUT!”

The Church of God is still suffering from this IMAGE OF THE BEAST, but if this article, written in love for your salvation, may have offended you, what do **his own emphatic words** reveal to us? Only his much later departure from the Truth, into hierarchical control, with its bitter fruits, so strongly condemned in Revelation 17 and Matthew 20:25-26 - and the consequent teaching of strong delusion!

2 Thessalonians 2:10-11, ‘They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.

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