**The Great Deception!**

Gentile Church?

**Note**

***All Scripture****, both the Tanak (OT) and the Messianic Writings (NT), regardless of the language in which we receive them were written by men with a Hebrew mindset and from a Hebrew culture. The Father, in His Infinite Wisdom, established the Foundations of Our Faith in the Hebrew language, culture and mindset.*

*It is our duty to keep this understanding firmly in our minds as we read and interpret the Father's Word so as to accurately determine His intent. It is imperative that we conform our way of thinking so that it conforms to the mindset of the Hebrew Scripture.*

*Furthermore, the Messianic Writings (NT) are founded upon the writings of the Tanak. As we read and interpret the writings of the Messiah and His disciples we first must do so from a Hebraic mindset and secondly, we must understand that much of what they say is given from the* ***presumption*** *that their readers understand that the Tanak is the foundation of what they're saying.*

*In other words, the Messianic writers* ***assume*** *that everyone in the faith who reads the Scripture already has some basic knowledge of the Tanak and an understanding of their responsibility to obey the Torah (Law) as it was given by YHWH to Moses at Mount Sinai. To these writers it is a foregone conclusion that obedience to the Torah is the only Way to live righteously and set-apart before a Righteous and Set-Apart Elohim (God).*

(**Emphasis mine throughout** and unless otherwise noted, all quotes are from “The Scriptures” version)

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**2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 (KJV)**

**2 The 2:7**  For the **mystery of iniquity** doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let,* until he be taken out of the way.

**2 The 2:8**  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 The 2:9**  *Even him,* whose coming is after the **working of Satan** with all **power** and **signs** and **lying wonders**,

**2 The 2:10**  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 The 2:11**  And for this cause **God** shall send them strong delusion, **that they should believe a lie:**

**2 The 2:12**  That they all might be damned who **believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

Well, here it is. Paul’s warning to the modern “Church” which he calls a “mystery of iniquity”. In this study we are going to dissect this passage to learn exactly what Paul meant. Then, we’ll go to other places where he and other writers commented on this very thing.

First of all, let’s find out the meaning of the words mystery and iniquity.

**Mystery**: stg’s #**G3466** - “**musterion**”, derived from the Greek word, “**muo**” (to

shut the mouth); a secret or “mystery” (through the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites).

**Iniquity**: stg’s **#G458 -“anomia”,** meaning**,** no law doing; translated in 1 John 3:4 as “transgression of the law”.

So we see here, that Paul is referring to a “religious” (i.e. man made ideas and traditions) rite or practice of **not obeying the law**, specifically a reference to what is generally called the Mosaic Law or Torah.

Now I know what you thinking, all your lives you have been taught that Paul said that believers in the Messiah no longer had to obey the law, but this passage suggests that this idea of a lawless faith comes from someone other than the Messiah.

Verse 8 refers to “that Wicked” that was to be revealed. Before we go into dissecting this word wicked we must recognize that it refers to a person, as the context suggests in verses 3 and 4.

**2 The 2:3** *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that* ***man of sin be revealed****,* ***the son of perdition****;*

**2 The 2:4** *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God,* ***shewing himself that he is God****.*(KJV)

This Person is all about sin and perdition (destruction or damnation) and as far as I know every so-called Christian scholar considers this person to be the coming Anti-Messiah or Anti-Christ. It is interesting to me that he is called the “Man” of Sin” because according to 1 John 3:4, “sin is the transgression of the law”.

Here we see again this idea of No Law Doing in association with this Person who is coming claiming himself to be the Most High (v 4), the person in whom the Messiah Himself shall destroy at His return.

Going back to that word “wicked” in verse eight, we see this meaning.

**Wicked**: stg’s **#G459** -“**anomos**”, meaning, lawless; i.e. Not subject to law or without law. (Note: in Romans 8:7 we are told that the mind of the flesh, does not subject itself to the law.)

Interestingly and obviously, the words “anomos” and “anomia” are related. In this context the word “wicked” should be translated as “lawless one” and the phrase “mystery of iniquity” should be translated as “secret of lawlessness”.

**2 The 2:7**  For the secret of lawlessness is already at work –

 only until he who now restrains comes out of the midst.

**2 The 2:8**  And then the lawless one shall be revealed, whom the Master

 shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth and bring to

naught with the manifestation of His coming. (The Scriptures)

Going back to verse 9 we see that this “Lawless One” is coming doing the works of “Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders”. Think about what that means for second.

This Anti-Messiah, will not only live contrary to the law or Torah that YHWH gave through Moses to Yisra’el at Mount Sinai, but he’ll also be teaching it, encouraging others to live according to the same mystery. And he will be using all kinds of powers and signs and wonders that are based in and intended to trap us in The Lie.

So in these last days, powers and signs and wonders that are going forth from teachers or churches that teach a doctrine of lawlessness or not keeping the law and are all based in a lie from the father of lies, Satan.

Remember, this passage of Scripture in 2 Thessalonians was written by Paul, who is the same man that wrote the book of Romans and the book of Galatians where we are told by him that we are not under the law.

So one of two things must be true, either Paul is contradicting himself or our so-called Christian forefathers and teachers do not understand what Paul is saying when he says we are not under the law, for Paul himself kept the law (Acts 21:24).

In verse 10, we see the phrase “deceivableness of unrighteousness” in those who perish.

**Deceivableness**: stg’s **#G539** -“**apate**”, from the word “**apatao**” (to cheat), meaning, delusion or deceit. This word “apate” refers to a lie or deception.

**Unrighteousness**: stg’s **#G93** -“**adikia**”, from the word “**adikos**” (unjust), meaning, injustice or wrong.

Consider:

**Deut 6:24** And the LORD commanded **us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God**, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.

**Deut 6:25** And **it shall be our righteousness**, **if we observe to do all these commandment**s before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.(KJV)

For us to live righteously is to obey all these commandments that YHWH gave to us through Moses. To not obey all these commandments is to live unrighteously or to be unrighteous. Back in verse 10 we see that the idea of unrighteousness or living unrighteously is a lie or delusion.

Verse 10 goes on to say that those who have been caught up in this lie of unrighteousness would perish because “they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

Now the first thing the Christian with any Bible knowledge is going to do is quote John 14:6,

**John 14:6** *`Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:*

 *no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*(KJV)

Then, they would say that their belief in Messiah, whose Hebrew name is Yahushua, shows that they have received the love of the truth, since He is the Truth. In this they would be half correct. He is the Truth, however, the Word is also the truth (John 17:17). Also, the Law is the truth according to Psalms 119:142. Interesting enough, John chapter 1 says that Messiah is the Word made flesh, thus, also making Him the Law/Torah made flesh.

Consider:

**Jam 2:14** What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

**Jam 2:15** If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

**Jam 2:16** And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

**Jam 2:17** yea though but **Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone**.

**Jam 2:18**  Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, **and I will shew thee my faith by my works.**

**Jam 2:19** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

**Jam 2:20** But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

**Jam 2:21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

**Jam 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?**

**Jam 2:23** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

**Jam 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.**(KJV)

Many teachers today quote this passage and yet have no idea what it is actually saying. See in this example, belief in Yahushua is called faith, while obedience to the Law/Torah that YHWH gave to us through Mosheh on Mount Sinai is called works. You’ll find this duality, this two part principle, in virtually every major passage in Scripture.

What brother James (Ya’aqob) is saying here is that belief in Yahushua Messiah alone, if not followed up by obedience to the Torah, is dead. Faith in Messiah alone, without a commitment of obedience afterward, is not true faith.

In our main passage of the study, 2 Thessalonians, we see that the Anti-Messiah is all about not obeying the law. The very concept of a faith in Messiah without a subsequent obedience to the law is an anti-Messiah doctrine, it is a delusion, a lie!

Consider now again, the last two verses of our passage.

**2Th 2:11**  And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe A lie:

**2Th 2:12**  That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Notice Who Paul says sends this great delusion upon them. It is the Almighty Himself that sends this delusion because the people believed the delusion of unrighteousness, the Satanic, demonic, Anti-Messiah lie that once you believe in Messiah you no longer have to obey the Law/Torah.

And look at verse 12, that they all might be damned, referring to the Lake of Fire, who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. Remember, the truth is both the Messiah and the Word/Torah, because Messiah is the Word/Torah made flesh. You can’t have Messiah without the Torah nor the Torah without the Messiah, both are an error.

The Christian church boast on its salvation based on grace through faith without the works of the law, which is how we are justified from death, there is no other way (Romans 3:20), yet they deny the very Messiah that justified them from death when they refuse to walk in the justification of life, through obeying the Torah (Romans 2:13).

Christianity today, that teaches a faith without a corresponding obedience to the law, is The Great Delusion!

**1 John 3:1** Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us on that,

that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

**1 John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

**1 John 3:3** And every man that hath this hope in him **purifieth himself**, even as he is pure.

**1 John 3:4** Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law**.

**1 John 3:5** And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and **in him is no sin** (disobedience).

**1 John 3:6** Whosoever abideth in him **sinneth not** (obeys the law)**:** whosoever sinneth (disobeys the law) hath not seen him, neither known him.

**1 John 3:7** Little children, let no man deceive you: he **that doeth righteousness** (obeys the law/Deut 6:24-25) **is righteous, even as he is righteous.**

**1 John 3:8** **He that committeth sin (transgresses the law) is of the de**vil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

**1 John 3:9** Whosoever is born of God **doth not commit sin** (transgress the law); for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin (transgress the law), because he is born of God.

**1 John 3:10** In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever **doeth not righteousness** (does not obey the law/Deut 6:24-25) is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

(Everything within parentheses added by author for clarification)

\*Note: In verse 3 it states that He (Messiah) is pure, while in verse 5 it says that He is without sin. Since sin is by definition the transgression of the law (Torah) and He did not ever transgress the law (Torah), than for us to purify ourselves as He is pure, means that we should obey the law (Torah) as He did.

It is the duty of all those who have faith in Yahushua Messiah to struggle diligently every day to obey all that YHWH has spoken in His Torah, trusting not in the Torah, but in Yahushua Messiah, Who alone can keep us when we stumble. And lastly, we to do these things in a heart of compassion which is the binding element.

Shalom