

2 Corinthians 11:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Analysis

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Paul grounds the false apostles' disguise in Satan's own methodology: *autos gar ho Satanas metaschēmatizetai eis angelon phōtos* (αὐτὸς γὰρ ὁ Σατανᾶς μετασχηματίζεται εἰς ἄγγελον φωτός, 'Satan himself transforms into an angel of light'). The present tense indicates habitual practice—this is Satan's characteristic strategy.

Ou thauma (οὐ θαῦμα, 'no marvel/no wonder') tells the Corinthians to stop being surprised that false teachers look impressive. The most dangerous deception appears righteous, beautiful, enlightening. Satan doesn't announce himself as evil; he masquerades as good. The serpent in Eden didn't appear as a monster but as wisdom's guide (Gen 3:1-5).

Angel of light evokes Isaiah 14:12 ('Lucifer, son of the morning') and contrasts with Satan's true nature as prince of darkness (Eph 6:12; Col 1:13). The disguise is religious—Satan's servants speak of God, quote Scripture (Matt 4:6), perform signs (2 Thess 2:9; Rev 13:13-14), and appear as ministers of righteousness. Truth is discerned not by appearances but by conformity to revealed gospel truth.

Historical Context

Jewish tradition (not biblical but reflected in intertestamental literature) developed Satan's fall from an angel of light. Early Christian theology saw Satan as the great

deceiver (Rev 12:9) who blinds minds to the gospel (2 Cor 4:4). His strategy is mimicry—creating counterfeit religion that imitates but contradicts true worship.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Satan's masquerade as an angel of light help explain why false teaching often sounds more appealing than hard biblical truth?
2. What are contemporary examples of Satan appearing as 'light'—religious error disguised as enlightenment, liberation, or progress?
3. How can we avoid being deceived by impressive appearances, supernatural signs, or beautiful-sounding teaching that contradicts Scripture?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὐ	θαυμαστόν·	αὐτὸς	γὰρ	ό	Σατανᾶς
And	no	marvel	himself	for	G3588	Satan
G2532	G3756	G2298	G846	G1063		G4567

μετασχηματίζεται	εἰς	ἄγγελον	φωτός
is transformed	into	an angel	of light
G3345	G1519	G32	G5457

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 1:8 (Parallel theme): But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (Parallel theme): Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

2 Corinthians 11:3 (Parallel theme): But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Revelation 12:9 (Parallel theme): And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

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