

2 Thessalonians 2:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie—for this cause (refusing truth-love) **God shall send** (pempei autois, πέμπει αὐτοῖς, actively sends) **strong delusion** (energeian planēs, ἐνέργειαν πλάνης, 'working of error/deception'). This is judicial hardening—God gives truth-rejecters over to their chosen lies.

That they should believe a lie (to pseudei, τῷ ψεύδει, 'the lie')—possibly the specific lie that Antichrist is God, or falsehood generally. God doesn't tempt (James 1:13), but He judicially abandons rebels to their delusions (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28). Repeated truth-rejection results in God-given inability to perceive truth. This is terrifying: the worst judgment is getting what you want.

Historical Context

Pharaoh's hardening (Ex. 4-14) provides the Old Testament pattern: God hardens those who first harden themselves. Paul applies this principle eschatologically. Those who reject Christ during gospel proclamation will be divinely confirmed in deception during Antichrist's reign.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God sending delusion differ from God being the author of evil?
2. What lies are you tempted to believe because they're more comfortable than truth?
3. How should this warning motivate embracing difficult truths now, before judgment hardens you?

Interlinear Text

καὶ διὰ τοῦτο πέμψει αὐτοὺς ὁ θεὸς ἐνέργειαν
And cause for this shall send them God strong
G2532 G1223 G5124 G3992 G846 G3588 G2316 G1753

πλάνης εἰς τὸ πιστεῦσαι αὐτοὺς τῷ ψεύδει
delusion that G3588 they should believe them a lie
G4106 G1519 G4100 G846 G3588 G5579

Additional Cross-References

Romans 1:28 (References God): And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Matthew 24:11 (Parallel theme): And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

1 Timothy 4:1 (Faith): Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Ezekiel 21:29 (Parallel theme): Whiles they see vanity unto thee, whiles they divine a lie unto thee, to bring thee upon the necks of them that are slain, of the wicked, whose day is come, when their iniquity shall have an end.

1 Thessalonians 2:3 (Parallel theme): For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

Psalms 109:17 (Parallel theme): As he loved cursing, so let it come unto him: as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him.

Matthew 24:5 (Parallel theme): For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Isaiah 66:4 (Parallel theme): I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not.

Ezekiel 14:9 (Parallel theme): And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.

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