

SATAN - DECEPTIVE SPIRITS & THEIR ACTIVITIES

Article by Brian H. Butler B.A., D.O., F.A.S.K.

Class of '64 Graduate & former Faculty Member of Ambassador College, England.

These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

God the Father is in total charge of everything, and He has handed over all executive power to Jesus Christ, who is above all.

Christ's executive power includes rulership over the entire world of spirit beings as well as all humans and the whole of the universe.

Revelation 12:9 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.

Satan the Devil's master stroke is to deceive the world into thinking he does not exist! Most people think Satan does not exist, or just think of him as a mythical figure. But he is not, he is real, **very real**.

Christ was tempted of the devil after fasting forty days and nights, and sent him packing. Jesus told the Pharisees, the Jewish rabbis of the day:

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Make no mistake, Satan is very much in charge of this present evil world, but **ONLY** by permission of God. Satan can do nothing unless God allows it, as God is in total control.

Deuteronomy 32:39 See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

Isaiah 45:5 I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else. 7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things

Matthew 28: 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Jesus is glorified and at the right hand of the Father, and we are in Christ, awaiting our glorification although it is already now legally granted to us, we will be given God powers at the resurrection.

God is the only one who has ALL power, and Christ the Firstborn Son of God under the Father has control of ALL power over everything including all the spiritual beings, including Satan the Devil and his demonic cohorts, as well as the cherubs, angels and archangels, everything is under Christ's control.

This means that Christ could put a stop to all demonic and Satanic activity in an instant if He chose to do so, but Christ is fulfilling the Will and the Plan of God, and that has a time-frame. The overall Plan is so wonderful and glorious that we are not capable of appreciating it or comprehending it.

1 Samuel 2:6 The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. 7 The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

1 Chronicles 29:10 Wherefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. 11 Thine, O Lord is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

God's Plan is not something that is easy to understand or even accept, but it happens to be the fact, and we need to ask for faith to believe that if there was a better way of achieving what God has set out to do, He would have done it differently.

Humans need to go through the experience of good and evil in order to understand the meaning of both. Just as you need to know darkness and light to understand what they mean. However, the end result of all the activities will be total gloriousness, happiness and joy for ever.

John 19:10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? 11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Jesus Christ knew that Pilate had power over Him, but He also knew that that power came from the Father. Christ also knew that God had planned His death and resurrection before the foundation of the world.

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Isaiah 52:14 As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

Christ was also pelted with stones while on the tree, tearing his body to bits.

We cannot really understand why God allows evil, but Glory comes out of evil, as Christ was exalted above every name. Humans suffer, but we will have glory too.

The Sun gives out light, the Moon shines, but that is reflected light from the Sun. The Moon is a type of Satan, which would be in total darkness were it not for the light of the Sun. The Moon reflects God's light but has no light of itself, as Satan who is an anti-type of God, has no light in himself. If we only knew light, we would not know darkness, so it is part of the Plan for us to experience both.

Absolutely NOTHING springs up of itself inside us, EVERYTHING comes from God, everything we think, experience, and wisdom to understand and use truth all flows from God to us.

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all

principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We need to have respect for all those who are in power in this world regardless of how much they may use that power for evil as it comes from God, and to respect that power they have is to respect God Himself and the Power of God in them.

The power of the Pharaohs, Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, and today's rulers of every country on earth and the unseen spirit entities behind them all emanates from God, and is under His control.

We have no need to fear their power in the sense that God will take care of us in the final analysis, even through trials and maybe death, but everything will work out for glory and good for us.

Satan currently has access to heaven, and spends time there as well as on the earth. He will be allowed to continue his activities for some time to come, but his time is short however, as he will be banished from heaven before the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God (angels) came to present themselves before the Lord (YHVH), and Satan came also among them. 7 And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. 8 And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? 9 Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? 10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. 11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. 12 And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power;

only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

So God was moved by Satan to allow him to afflict Job, but notice, God put a limit on what Satan could do. Remember Satan can do nothing whatsoever unless God allows it. One might think this was not very nice of God, but God was using Satan to test Job who was in fact very righteous, but he had a problem God wanted him to deal with. We know that the outcome of this trial was that God promoted and enriched Job double of everything he had before, so God does use evil for a good purpose.

Despite the fact that Job was ruined financially and his family were drastically affected, he retained his integrity. So Satan had another reasoning with God suggesting, just let me affect Job's body, then he will curse God. So God allowed Satan to afflict Job personally but he was not allowed to kill Job, again Satan was limited, and had to obey God. So he inflicted him with what must have been one of the most painful conditions possible – boils all over his body. One is bad enough!

Regardless of any suffering we might go through, we are always in the arms of Christ, even to death itself. He knows what we suffer, and He knows the ultimate outcome for us is Glory. He cannot know it yet, but our future must be wonderful beyond our imagination, certainly as Paul said, any suffering is nothing compared to what God has prepared for us.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

And this requires faith to really accept that and believe it.

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (Satan the Devil), the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation (conduct) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

We are already in the heavenlies with Christ in spirit as in embryonic form, but when we are resurrected we will really be there totally.

So is there really a Satan the Devil? Satan, the Devil, wants people to believe he does not exist, and that he is just a figment of people's imagination, and using his PR skills, he has largely managed to achieve that aim. The scriptures are the inspired Word of God, and cannot be broken. If it says in the Bible that Satan the Devil exists, and it does, then he does.

Never forget that we have protection from evil forces, and remember to pray 'deliver us from evil' or the evil one, and we have spiritual 'armour' too.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities (evil princely spirits), against powers, against the rulers of the darkness (Satan is the prince of darkness) of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (wicked spirits who stand behind all government leaders).

Notice that the armour of God protects the front of your body/mind. We need never turn around to run. Face him, and with God's help it is he who will do the running, away from you.

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Loins girt with truth: Thy Word is Truth! John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Breastplate of righteousness: Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness. Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Righteousness is faith in Christ and His Grace, and obedience to the law of love. Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Feet firmly footed and your 'way' protected by the good news of the gospel.

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

The Shield of faith, that total conviction, not wishful thinking. Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, **the evidence** of things not seen.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

The Helmet of salvation, the knowledge that you have forgiveness through Grace, and eternal life which protects your mind.

The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Bible study fills our minds with the words of Jesus Christ, and them living there is a continuous protection.

Satan knows he is in control of the world, and that is how he was able to tempt Christ with the offer of his handing that control over to Him. Anyone might want to take Satan up on that offer, but no man is capable of running the affairs of this world, we would make just as much a mess of it as Satan does. Jesus resisted Satan's offer, He knew that all power would come to Him, but Jesus knew God's will, and then was not the time.

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

We need to bear in mind all the time that the power of Satan and his demonic powers are behind the rulers of the world like Putin, Obama. Cameron, and it is they who give leaders the power to rule and also influence them.

God has created many Spirit beings, and some of them have turned against God. Others, thankfully more powerful, have remained faithful to God. The Angel Gabriel is one of the faithful, and it was he who appeared to Zecharias and told of the coming of John the Baptist.

Luke 1:19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

Daniel 9:21 Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man (angel) Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

Gabriel was also working with Daniel. Daniel needed help, but Gabriel had to wait for the help of the Archangel Michael to overcome the prince of the kingdom of Persia before he could get to Daniel. Such is the power of the unseen!

Daniel 10:13 But the prince (the angelic demonic power) of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.

All this going on unseen behind the scenes.

Daniel 10:20 Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. 21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael (Israel's Angelic Prince) your prince.

The scripture of truth is contained in Daniel 11:1 - Daniel 12:4. It is a prophetic story speaks of the three kings of Persia, but also has a future fulfillment in Daniel 12:4 which speaks of a time of trouble never

Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Then it speaks of the resurrection and that the book will be sealed until the time of the end, when knowledge of its meaning will be increased.

Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the

firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. 4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

People who do not study the Bible thoroughly do not realize that God has problems in heaven with contentious, disruptive and argumentative spirit beings. Although God is in total control, all is not peace and harmony even in heaven. War is coming in heaven to resolve this situation, and this will occur just before the second coming of Christ, probably about three and a half years before that event.

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.
9 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.

So Satan and his cohorts are banished from heaven for ever, and will never be found there again. They will however be very active to say the least. Satan will offer a human being control of the entire earth, and he will accept, and become the Beast. The Beast will appear as "God", will sit in the Temple, perform miracles, and bring about a time of apparent peace and prosperity but it will not last long.

Many in the world will think that the Beast is Jesus Christ returned to Earth because of his lying wonders.

Ezekiel 28 The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, say unto the prince (a human being) of Tyrus (Tyre was the capital city of Phoenicia), Thus saith the Lord God; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

But we are not to be troubled by these events, or believe that Christ has returned no matter what the PR tells us through the media.

2 Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 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; 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.

Then in Ezekiel 28 the subject changes from the Prince of Tyrus, a man, to the King of Tyrus who is a fallen angelic being, the 'power behind the throne' of the whole area.

Ezekiel 28:11 Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, 12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king (a very high ranking spirit being) of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

The "King of Tyre" was one of the anointed cherubim that covered the mercy seat in the Temple, but he lost his way, and fell under the spirit of Satan.

Ezekiel 28:14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty (all is vanity), thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; behold thee. **therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that** 19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, **and never shalt thou be any more.**

Here is an amazing passage that tells us that created angelic beings, no matter what their rank, can be destroyed, reduced by fire to ashes, and cease to exist for ever. God is going to clean up His Kingdom as time goes

on, after these forces of darkness have fulfilled God's purpose, they will be destroyed for ever. Eventually nothing will be disruptive in God's Kingdom when 'all is in all'.

Ezekiel 29, 30, 31 are about the downfall of the King (angelic being) of Egypt, and the ultimate desolation of the whole country as an example to the world. Egypt, Elam, Edom, Meshech will all be destroyed, and this is figurative language, yes, but it tells of the reality to come,

Revelation 11: 15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Satan will then be taken out of the way for the entire Millennium. Satan does not come in a red cloak with a pitchfork, he is attractive and beautiful in appearance, as are all his devious works, and a smooth talker who can deceive people with ease. He is the ultimate counterfeit which looks good, but has no value.

Eventually though Satan and his cohorts will be destroyed in a lake of fire.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:

Job 12:16 With him (God) is strength and wisdom: the deceived and the deceiver are his.

God created both the deceived and the deceiver, Satan. Christ rebuked the Pharisees who called him illegitimate:

John 8:44 Ye (Pharisees) are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

We humans, the children of God, have to be exposed to evil as well as good so that we know the difference between light and darkness. This is part of our learning experience, and part of God's plan. WE need no fear Satan or his angels.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Satan and his spirit cohorts are those who deceive the ministers and the religions of this world.

1 Kings 22: 21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. 22 And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. 23 Now therefore, behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee.

So the Lord allowed wicked spirits to make four hundred prophets lie to the king of Israel. God however, had his own prophet whose mind was protected, and he told the truth to the king.

Ezekiel 14: 9 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.

God takes full responsibility for deceiving the religious teachers, and even the prophets. This fact is consistent with the whole of the Bible teachings.

Satan's master stroke has everyone thinking he does not exist while he propagates all the lies that the whole world is exposed to.

Whatever people think, in fact the more people think that something is true, the more probability is that it is not true.

The very first lie Satan told was to proclaim the doctrine of the 'immortality of the soul'.

God told Adam in the Garden of Eden if you eat of this tree you will surely die. Not just die, surely die!

Genesis 2:16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman

said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

So along comes the serpent, the Devil, and asks Eve about eating the fruit of the tree, fully knowing that God had said if you eat of it you will die.

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Satan says, you do not have to worry about that. God is a liar, **you will not die, you will be immortal!**

This lie is made worse by the horrendous Satanic doctrine of hell: You do not die, you have immortal life, but because you are a sinner, you will burn in hell forever.

Christ is the only man who was given immortality, He is the Firstborn of God. Those who are changed at the resurrection will be immortal, to no other man has ever been yet given immortality.

1 Timothy 6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

So then Satan puts in the punch line. What is Satan selling? He is selling misinformation, and he has been doing it ever since. You won't die, not only that, you will learn wonderful and amazing things.

Genesis 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Satan tells Eve, God does not want you to know what the gods know, but believe me, once you know about good and evil, you will have all sorts of power like gods. Eve falls for the idea of learning about what the gods know, and the fruit looked good to eat, so she ate it, and what is more, she gave it to Adam and he ate it too.

So sin, disobedience to God, and the penalty of death for sin entered into the world, which would taint all human beings, and put enmity between God and mankind. This had to be resolved, and the only way to do that was for

YHVH to become a man, and die on the tree of crucifixion as the price for our reconciliation to God the Father.

Yes we all die because of sin, but we do not perish! But we do not have immortality of the soul at death, but at the resurrection we are given immortality.

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

So when you next hear one of the more than two billions 'christians' or some 'new age' guru talking about the **immortality of the soul**, you will know the origin of this lie.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,
2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

If anyone tells you or you see it on TV, or someone sends you a letter, that looks official, do not believe that Christ has returned.

2 Thessalonians 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;

The 'man of sin' has to come first, and he will sit in the Temple of God which is going to be built during the end time. The Beast and the False Prophet will appear to be in charge of the whole world. Peace will break out, and they will produce miracles and wonders, but do not believe them.

2 Thessalonians 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.

The population of the world will believe that this man is actually God.

2 Thessalonians 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.

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: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 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. 11 And for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie:

God will send a strong delusion, so they will believe the Beast's lies. God has blinded humans and stopped their ears since time began, but they are still responsible for what knowledge they had, and what they refused to accept of God's truth, and they will be punished for it.

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

Deuteronomy 13:1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth (is testing) you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

The only way to weather this situation is to stay close to God, and the way to do that is to allow Christ to talk to you directly through His Word, and give you the help of the Holy Spirit to discern what is truth and what is not.

God is calling us out of all the things of this world that look so good, being with it, pleasing to the eye, popular, comfortable, not that those things are necessarily wrong, but being taken in by them and lured away from being close to God is.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

We do have protection. Our safe place is not somewhere in Petra, or away among the rocks somewhere, our place of safety is in the Rock which is Christ. We will know when He does come, as we will rise to meet Him in the air!

