



When I take a look at the world around me today, I see a world that negates the truth that our Father the Creator is the only one true God with all things subject to His will. Man has replaced this with the idea that it is he who is god and the master of his own destiny. Man worships himself as god rather than God Almighty. He worships the creation rather than the Creator. This is so evident in man's view of himself today. It is evident in the institutions of science, politics, economics, environmental science, popular culture and academia - just to name a few. Man sees himself as a direct replacement to the idea of God and therefore does not need God. Man relies upon his own interpretation of creation around him rather than the Word of God. When man worships himself/creation, rather than God the Creator, then he is believing and living what is called 'The Lie' in the Bible. The King James Version gives a very poor translation of the word 'lie' into the English but the correct version is in brackets:

'Who changed the truth of God into a lie (The Lie), and worshipped and served the creature (creation) more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.' (Romans 1:25)

If you are not worshipping God the creator then you are worshipping something else in your life and you are manifesting The Lie.

But where did this idea that man could be god come from? Why has it gathered so much momentum throughout the ages, ever increasing in popularity? It certainly is not something that man himself originally dreamed up.

To answer this, we need to go back to see when The Lie was first given to man as an idea. The Book of Genesis gives us the first account of it.

'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? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 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. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 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. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.' (Genesis 3:1-6)

So this is where The Lie was first given to man, '...and ye shall be as gods', out of the lips of the father of The Lie who is Lucifer himself. Jesus Christ also spoke about this in the Gospels.

'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 (The Lie), he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar (The Liar), and the father of it.' (John 8:44)

Lucifer is The Father of The Lie and our God is The Father of The Truth. Jesus Christ is the living Word - the living truth and the Antichrist will be the living lie. Every person is given the freewill to choose and a choice must be made.

Look how Adam and Eve were tricked. They were deceived into contemplating The Lie that they would become as gods rather than remaining faithful to God the Creator. As a result of their disobedience, man lost his spiritual connection with God. It is only by the way of Jesus Christ, by the will of the Father, who now makes it available for man to regain this connection through salvation. Understanding these things is essential as they form the main purpose of God's judgements in the End Times. Mankind will have to decide to either believe The Truth or The Lie. It is as simple as that.

The Lie did not end in the Garden of Eden. It has never stopped for indeed the mystery of iniquity, which has The Lie at its heart, is at work even today.

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

Today, The Lie is everywhere. It has deeply embedded itself within the ways of this world and the fabric of our society. Man believes that he is god and worships himself as god. He believes that it is he who is the master of his own destiny. It's even in the Hollywood films we watch with our kids but it will only truly reach its full maturity when the Antichrist is revealed in the future and the False Prophet gives life to it. The world more than ever before will be ready to receive it.

'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;' (2 Tim 4:3)

There will come a time in the end when mankind will once again be directly duped into believing The Lie. However, during that time it will be from a man who stands in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem declaring that he is the only true god, supernaturally performing miraculous signs that the world will believe. In that day, some will be eager to believe The Lie. They will want to hear, with their 'itching' ears, the solutions to the world's problems, in a world already rocked by our Father's judgements that have occurred beforehand. The Word speaks of God sending them the 'strong delusion' as they pursue the message of The Lie to gain a 'higher state of consciousness'. It will all seem to make absolute sense to them. The Antichrist will be the living example of The Lie just as Christ is the living example of The Truth. Many people will become Antichrist-like rather than Christ-like by way of believing and following after The Lie.

'And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie (The Lie)'. (2 Thessalonians 2:11)

Many, by their own free will decision making, will then view The Lie as the most logical, most innovative, most empowering and most ground breaking way for life. Some will see this as a 'new awakening' but rather this is the strong delusion that we read of in 2 Thessalonians 2:11. All of this will follow the great 'falling away' that we read about a few verses before in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. This is when the world will be called to 'apostasia' or forsake everything that is called of God, including the one and only true God, in order to worship the Antichrist and follow after The Lie. The ironic thing about this is that they will be actually worshipping Lucifer as god himself and putting themselves in the direct firing line of God's judgments.

More than ever before, the two opposing extremes of The Lie and The Truth will be presented to the world in a distinct polarised state. People will be faced with two definitive choices - either believe The Truth or believe The Lie. The power given to the faithful church by God to prophesy and later the immense power given to His two witnesses versus the power and authority allowed to be exercised by the Antichrist and the False Prophet will leave little grey.

### **So what has all of this got to do with Wormwood?**

There is a particular warning judgement we read of in the book of Revelation called Wormwood. This judgement occurs when the third trumpet is blown. We read of a great star like a burning lamp falling to earth causing devastating consequences to a third of the rivers and the waters causing many to die.

'And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.' (Revelation 8:10&11)

But what does this mean? What is its significance when our Father calls this Wormwood?

The Word of God is neither written haphazardly nor in a laxidasiacal manner. Our Father always has a purpose for the specific words He uses and how He says it.

The Bible should always be understood as an eastern book. There are many examples in God's Word where we have to understand it in terms of what are called orientalisms. The word orientalism refers to passages in the Bible that are descriptive of Eastern culture. Those of us from Western cultures must endeavour to understand these passages in this way if we are to rightly divide the Word of Truth. If we don't then we may misinterpret them because we don't understand the culture of the times in the Bible.

One of my most favourite examples of an orientalism is what is called 'double for sin'.

'Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.' (Isaiah 40: 2)

When you first read this, the verse here seems to contradict itself. In the first half, Jerusalem's iniquity is pardoned, but then at end of the verse it says she has received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. Without an understanding of the Eastern culture you could quite easily privately interpret this, believing that Jerusalem received twice the punishment, but this is actually the opposite of what the Word is saying here. The verse is referring to an oriental custom. In the East, the gates of the city had public bulletin boards. If a person owed money, and couldn't repay it, their creditor would post the record at the city gate. Everyone could see what they owed and this would serve as a source of humiliation. If the debt was then paid in full the record would then be folded up, doubled over, so the debt was no longer displayed. The person would now have a clean slate. So, "double for sin" does not mean a multiplication of sin but rather quite the opposite! It means a cancelling out of sin.

The New Testament is believed to be written in either Ancient Greek or Aramaic and so, as we have just seen, we need to understand the Bible in the culture and customs of that time. By doing so we are then able to fully grasp the accuracy of the truth.

When the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation the meaning of the word wormwood would have been fully understood by its Greek hearers. In Revelation 8:10 and 11, this word is from the ancient Greek word 'apsinthos' which means bitterness and it is translated into the English as "wormwood". However, this is only a partial understanding of the translation. The Greeks who read the book of Revelation in those days had a richer understanding of the meaning of this word. The word 'apsinthos' in Ancient Greek culture was the name of the "Goddess of Lies". Those who choose to be bonded with her later became full of bitterness when they were exposed.

Understanding the cultural depth of the meaning of the word Wormwood is crucial for our understanding of its meaning and purpose in the End Times. When Wormwood falls to earth some people who are living and believing The Lie will die due to its effects. Like all of the of trumpet judgments it serves as a final warning to mankind to come to Christ. Wormwood is a warning to all those in the world who have bonded with The Lie. There is a spiritual significance of it being a star as it sheds the brilliance of its light, exposing those believing The Lie. Just like those who have bonded with the Greek goddess they become bitter as a result of their exposure. However, the Word tells us that this bitterness causes many to die according to God's judgment.

The fact that Wormwood will physically affect the waters just as God's judgement affected the waters in Egypt during the time of Moses, is very significant. Later after this, the Bible also shows us how God's own people forsook Him.

'For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.' (Jeremiah 2:13)

In this verse we see how God's own people had replaced God's ever flowing fountain of The Truth with leaking cisterns of The Lie.

So we have examined the spiritual understanding of Wormwood but we must also understand its physical side as well.

We read in Revelation 8:10 that this star burns like a lamp. Why does the Father tell us this? The word here is 'lampas' in the Greek and is defined as the shape of flame you would see in a lamp which is burning oil. The shape of the flame is significant to us as it is the same shape of a burning mass entering into the Earth's atmosphere.

Additionally, the word for star comes from the Greek word 'aster' and Strong defines this as a star strewn over the sky. Indeed its derivation comes from the base word 'stronnyimi' which means to spread, as you would spread a carpet over a floor.

So Wormwood is a physical mass burning brightly in the shape of a flame burning in a lamp. It is strewn over the sky spreading like a carpet over a floor. Wormwood will be very physically visible to the naked eye having very physical consequences to the world from beginning to end. But its real purpose is a spiritual one. This act of judgement serves as a final warning for people to untangle themselves from The Lie.

### **But there is even a greater understanding to it than this....**

When you accurately study the timeline of the final seven years you come to a definitive understanding of when the Antichrist will be revealed to the world. This is very significant in gaining a full mature understanding of our Father's timing and purpose for Wormwood. The act of Wormwood opposes The Lie but also serves as one of the final warnings to the world not to believe that which is to shortly come. It is the Antichrist, along with the false prophet, who will give life to The Lie and the image of the beast. Shortly after the fifth trumpet is blown the Beast is allowed to be released from the Abyss (Revelation 9:1-2 & 11:7). The man, who is the candidate, only becomes the Antichrist when the Beast embodies himself within him giving him great supernatural powers, great wisdom and great authority. The Antichrist, and the False Prophet, will then give life to The Lie bringing it into its final full maturity with the world being coerced to believe in it by the False Prophet.

'And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.' (Revelation 13:15).

Before, during and after Wormwood is released, the role of the faithful church will be to prophesy this along with evangelising to save souls. They will preach The Truth which is the Great Mystery

(Colossians 1:27), which The Lie is its direct counterfeit. They will preach the kingdom of God in order for people to come to Christ. This will directly oppose the False Prophet's work to coerce people to follow the Antichrist and believe in the way of The Lie. The faithful witnesses will then be later persecuted with some of us even suffering death. But it is at this point when God's own two prophets will stand up to continue the work of the faithful church in the absolute protection of God Almighty. No one will be able to harm them during the three and half years of their ministry. God will give His anointing and His power to them. They will be the most powerful believers to have ever walked on the face of this earth. With their own free will in alignment with God's and equipped with God's own arsenal of judgements to choose from, they will be able to bring down any Judgment at any time in any place against the Antichrist's kingdom which at that time will be giving life to a very advanced form of The Lie. Their purpose will be to continue to warn the world, like the rest of the faithful witnesses beforehand, not to go the way of the Antichrist in believing The Lie. They will walk in total alignment to the Father walking in His love and having great sorrow in their hearts for the unsaved and all those deceived.

The act of Wormwood will confirm the message that the faithful church and the two witnesses will be proclaiming just before Jesus Christ returns. It is one of the final acts of the Father to bring people to Christ and The Truth, rather than them going the way of the Antichrist and The Lie. In that day, mankind will be very close to perdition indeed. The faithful church will fully comprehend all of what I have spoken here to fully engage with our Father's purpose for Wormwood in that time.