

God Cannot Lie

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(*Hebrews 6:18*)

God lies by proxy; he sends forth lying spirits to deceive
(2Thessalonians 2:11; 1 Kings 22:23; Ezekiel 14:9)

Because Almighty God allows freedom of choice to all His subjects, He grants them the right to choose who will govern them and who will influence them (1Sam. 8:5b-22). If individuals or nations choose the wrong leadership, God is not obligated to intervene. If He stepped in to shelter people from their foolish or rebellious decisions, it would prevent them from learning the lessons they need to learn. Throughout man's history, individuals and nations have been under the influence of leaders and governments that did not benefit them, but they made a choice and need to learn by experiencing the consequences associated with their decisions. In 1811, Joseph de Maistre said the following about the decisions we often make, 'Every country has the government it deserves' (from Maistre's, 'Letter et Oposcules In edits vol.1, letter 53, written on 15 August 1811, published in 1851).

In this study, it will become apparent that individuals and nations can choose leaders who are determined to ignore God completely. In cases like this, Almighty God will grant them all the permission they need to reach the point where the lesson or lessons are finally learned. This would include allowing an individual or nation to be influenced by the fallen host of heaven who lie and deceive continually (cf. Jn. 8:44; Rev. 12:9).

The first scripture used to accuse God of lying by proxy is 2Thessalonians 2:11.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish (those who have chosen to walk contrary to God's word), because they did not receive the love of the truth (as expressed in God's law and commandments; cf. 1Jn. 1:3-6; 5:2-3), that they might be saved (cf. Mt. 19:17). ¹¹**And for this reason God will send them strong delusion** (SGD 4106), ¹²that they should believe the lie (from Satan), that they all may be condemned (to the second resurrection; cf. Rev. 20:4-6) who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2Thes. 2:9-12; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The word "delusion" is translated from a Greek word (SGD 4106) meaning:

- 1) Mental straying;
- 2) Allowed to maintain a wrong opinion relative to morals or religious beliefs;
- 3) A wrong mode of acting.

Therefore, God is not lying, instead, He is simply taking a 'hands off approach' with those who are determined to ignore His Word. Since they have decided to disobey His law and commandments, He is not going to intervene and force them to do something against their own free will. Paul reinforced this point in the first chapter of Romans.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things that are not fitting (not good for them) (Rom. 1:28; Ed. note in parenthesis).

According to the next scriptural reference, some people have determined to respond to evil thoughts and desires rather than seeking to follow God's way of life. Again, they were free to make these choices and God was not interfering by sending lying spirits as some like to accuse Him of doing.

But the (God's) spirit expressly (explicitly) says that in the later seasons, **some will forsake the faith, holding to spirits, deceivers, and in the teachings of demons** ²**in hypocrisy**, having branded the conscience, ³hindering to marry, to hold off foods that God created for sharing with thankfulness to the trustful ones and the ones having perceived the truth (1Tim. 4:1-3; RNT; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The next scripture some use to accuse God of lying by proxy is found in 1Kings 22. The context is dealing with rebellious King Ahab of Israel. He sought to reclaim the city of Ramoth in Gilead from the Syrians, which was a city of refuge (Jos. 21:38). He preferred to rely on 400 false prophets to give him advice, regarding whether he should go to battle against the Syrian army or not, rather than God's prophet Micaiah (1Kgs. 22:6). Consequently, God allowed Ahab to continue under the influence of the fallen host as this was a decision he had previously made. It was only because Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, urged Ahab to consult with God's true prophet Micaiah that he changed his mind.

And Jehoshaphat said (to Ahab), 'Is there not still a prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of him?' ⁸So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, 'There is still one man, Micaiah, the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord; but **I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.**' And Jehoshaphat said, 'Let not the king say such

things (against God's true prophet)! (1Kgs. 22:7-8; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

It's amazing that some people accuse God of sending lying spirits to individuals or nations when they have already placed themselves under the influence of these lying spirit-beings. This is what King Ahab did when he rejected and imprisoned God's true prophet, Micaiah. Ahab preferred to hear lies rather than the truth. Ironically, if he had obeyed the truth that Micaiah had given him, his life would have been spared. Instead, he rejected what Micaiah told him and as a result went to battle and was killed (1Kgs. 22:34-37). Even though Ahab had a rebellious attitude prior to this battle, God gave him one more chance to save his life when Micaiah explained a vision in which a lying spirit wanted permission from God to entice Ahab to go to battle and be killed. In this vision, Micaiah revealed that God was prepared to grant permission to the lying spirit. Instead of believing that this vision was truthful, and repenting of his rebellious attitude, Ahab refused to obey the warning that God had given him through Micaiah. If God lied, He would not have given Ahab this vision through Micaiah. God was telling Ahab the truth, but he rejected it and died as a result. Ahab did not die because of a lying spirit. Rather, he died because he rejected God's truth,

... I(Micaiah) saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. ²⁰And the Lord said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. ²¹Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord (cf. Job 1:6-12), and said, 'I will persuade him.' ²²The Lord said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of **all his prophets.**' And He said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail.

Go out and do so' (1Kgs. 22:19b-22; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

To make this situation abundantly clear, and to preserve Ahab's life, God revealed that all Ahab's prophets were misleading him and if he followed their advice he would be a dead man.

Now therefore, look! The Lord has put (allowed to continue) a lying spirit in the mouth of **all these prophets of yours** (God points out these false prophets are Ahab's choice), and the Lord has declared disaster against you (1Kgs. 22:23; Ed. note in parentheses; emphasis added).

Ahab is a perfect example of mankind's attitude toward God's word. They would prefer to reject it so that they can continue living contrary to His commands. When the majority of mankind rejects God, by default they choose to follow the advice of the lying spirit-host.

That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the Lord; ¹⁰who say to the seers, 'Do not see,' and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. ¹¹Get out of the way, turn aside from the path, Cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us' (Isa. 30: 9-11).

If a prophet, who purports to represent Almighty God, leads people astray, God will allow him to continue until the point that God acts to discipline him and those who follow his rebellious instructions. Everyone is responsible to examine whether a prophet or religious leader is giving advice according the God's law and commandments.

Therefore speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says the lord God: Everyone of the house of Israel **who sets up idols in his heart**, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into

iniquity (sin; cf. 1Jn. 3:4), and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols' (Eze. 14:4; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Until a sinner repents he, and the false prophet he is listening to, will continue to be misled by their own rebellious choices.

And when they say to you 'Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,' should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them' (Isa. 8:19-20).

With this in mind, the final scripture used to accuse God of lying by proxy can be examined. The context is dealing with lying prophets and people who follow their lies because it suits their selfish desires (cf. Isa. 30:10).

I (God) will set My face against that man (who persists in disobeying God's word) and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I am the Lord. ⁹And if the prophet is induced to speak anything, I the Lord have induced that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel. ¹⁰And they (the people who followed along with the false prophet) shall bear their iniquity; the punishment of the prophet shall be the same as the punishment of the one who inquired, ¹¹that the house of Israel may no longer stray from me, nor be profaned anymore with all their transgressions (sins), but that they may be My people and I may be their God, says the Lord God (Eze. 14:8-11; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In the scripture above these prophets were already lying and misleading people, and God allowed it to continue for a period of time

because He is patient and wants everyone to learn from their sins and repent. However, if they continue to sin willfully, God will eventually intervene and correct them. Those who are wise will want to correct their own wrong conduct so that God doesn't have to do it for them.

So accusing God of lying by proxy is a smoke screen that attempts to cover up the fact that lying is associated exclusively with Satan, the fallen host, and mankind.

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