

Anthropocentric Academic Speculation through Deception without Content; Principles of Disinformation: Spreading the Lie, 2 Pet 2:2-3

16. Based on the elements presented to define *philosophia*, we will translate it here as “anthropocentric academic speculation” which is Gate 8 of Cosmic 2, defined for us by:

Thieme, R. B., Jr. *Christian Integrity*. 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 185-86:

“Anthropocentric” means “centered in man; considering man to be the most significant fact of the universe; assuming man to be the measure of all things; interpreting the world in terms of human values and experiences” (*Webster's Third New International Dictionary*, s.v. “anthropocentric.”). If not seduced by religion, man can be deceived by philosophical, academic criticism to dismiss the Word of God as absolute truth. When philosophical assumptions give central importance to man instead of God, academic research can amass persuasive yet fraudulent evidence against divine viewpoint.

Colossians 2:8 - Continuously be alert that there should not be anyone carrying you off as prisoners of war through the agency of anthropocentric academic speculation ...

17. In addition to the philosophies of man-centered, pseudo-intellectual speculation Paul continues by defining the insidious methods used by these heretics as “worthless deception”: **κενός, kenos** plus **ἀπάτη, apatē**.
18. *Kenos* is something that has no real value and lacks real substance. Such information is obviously incompatible with biblical truth.
19. *Kenos* defines the content of the anthropocentric academic speculation espoused by false teachers. It is translated “vain” (KJV), “hollow” (NIV), and “empty” (NASB & NET). The best translation for this context is “without content” (Wigram and Green, *The New Englishman's Greek Concordance and Lexicon*, 2756).
20. Paul uses this word in a similar context in:

Ephesians 5:6 - Let nobody deceive you with empty words [**κενός λόγος, kenos logos: words without content**], for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience [**reversionists**].

21. Paul continues to define anthropocentric academic speculation in Colossians 2:8 with the word **ἀπάτη, apatē** which means “to deceive.” So far the verse reads this way:

Colossians 2:8 - Continuously be alert that there should not be anyone carrying you off as prisoners of war through the agency of anthropocentric academic speculation and deception without content ...

22. *Apatē* may be defined by the sum of three words:
- **Deceive:** “to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid; implies imposing a false idea or belief.”
 - **Delude:** “something that is falsely believed or propagated; implies an inability to distinguish between what is real and what only seems to be real; to deceive so thoroughly as to obscure the truth.”
 - **Beguile:** “to lead by deception; stresses the use of charm and persuasion in deceiving.”

(*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed.)

23. The definitions of both *kenos* – without content – and *apatē* – deceive, delude, beguile – suggest the modern-day concepts of propaganda and disinformation.
24. We will first define disinformation and then take a look at propaganda.

Principles on Disinformation

1. The definition of disinformation is: “false information deliberately and often covertly spread (as by the planting of rumors) in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth” (*M-WCD/11*).
2. Disinformation often includes intentionally false and misleading content combined with true statements in order to mislead and manipulate.
3. The intent is to deliberately delude people by imposing a distorted concept of reality.
4. Scripture is replete with passages that warn us about the deceptive messages of false teachers – those who mislead for their own personal gain or to advance a hidden agenda:

2 Peter 2:1 - There came into existence false prophets among the people [the Israelites], even as there definitely shall be false teachers among you [Church Age believers], who will insidiously introduce destructive heresies, habitually denying the Master who bought them [unlimited atonement], bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

5. Those who have the ability to tell lies with straight faces are usually very charismatic people. Their personalities are appealing, they have confident demeanor, and their message is persuasive although vacuous of content yet rich with deception.

v. 2 - Many shall follow their hedonistic lifestyle and because of them the way of truth will be maligned;

v. 3 - In their insatiable lust they will fashion words so as to exploit you with disinformation to sell their shabby merchandise [ἐμπορεύομαι, *emporeuomai*].

6. The translation of verse 3 expands on the meaning of the word “merchandise.” It is actually a verb in the Greek text, the future middle indicative of ἐμπορεύομαι, *emporeuomai*, the source of the English noun “emporium”: a store carrying many different kinds of merchandise.