

10. Next is the dative of disadvantage of the indirect object from the intensive pronoun **αὐτός (autós)**: “And because of this, God sends to them.”
11. It is to the disadvantage of anyone that rejects any category of truth. Having done so, an immediate vacuum opens in the soul into which is sucked the lie. (Ephesians 4:17-19)
12. Next is the accusative singular direct object of the noun **ἐνέργεια (enérgeia)**: action, work, operation. The concept here has to do with “kinetic energy” that is strong and powerful.
13. This is followed by the descriptive genitive of **πλάνη (plánē)**: delusion. Together the terms refer to the “active operation of false opinions.”
14. This makes reference to Lucifer’s genius system of controlling the souls of men throughout *cosmos diabolicus*, here defined by Lewis Sperry Chafer:

The *cosmos* is a vast order or system that Satan has promoted, which conforms to his ideals, aims, and methods. It is civilization now functioning apart from God. This system ... is that sphere in which man lives. It is what he sees, what he employs. To the uncounted multitude it is all they ever know so long as they live on this earth. It is properly styled *the satanic system*, which phrase is in many instances a justified interpretation of the so-meaningful word, *cosmos*. It is literally a *cosmos diabolicus*.⁴
15. In verse 7, this system is already operational in the Church Age although restrained by the Holy Spirit functioning through the invisible impact of the Pivot.
16. In verse 9, we learn that in the Tribulation, the Beast-Dictator will rise to power through the utilization of this system’s power.
17. With endowed power from Satan, this dictator will have the ability to perform miracles of both visible and verbal deceptions.

⁴ Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology: Angelology-Anthropology-Hamartiology* (Dallas: Dallas Theological Seminary, 1947), 2:77-78.

18. The word in verse 9 for miracles is **σημείον (sēmeíon)** which refers to “sleight of hand” by which the performance of visible deceptions are performed.
19. The words for “wonder miracles of the lie” are **τέρας plus φεῦδος (téras plus pseúdos)** which refers to “sleight of tongue.” This is the power to delude the masses by telling people what they want to hear as he conceals while he advances his hidden agenda.
20. We have borrowed two words from the English dictionary to amplify the deceptive, evil, and insidious works of Lucifer which according to verse 7 are already operational in the Church Age, one of which is:

Prestidigitation, the performance of tricks by quick, skillful use of the hand; sleight of hand; legerdemain.⁵

Prestidigitation. Sleight of hand, legerdemain. Prestidigitator, One who practices sleight of hand or legerdemain; a juggler; hence figuratively a juggler of words, a trickster.⁶

21. Therefore, the deception of prestidigitation can occur by tricking the eye or tricking the mind. The eye is tricked by an apparent skill referred to by the idiom, “the hand is quicker than the eye,” while the mind is tricked by deceptive speech which we have classified as Rhetorical Veils of propaganda.
22. Verse 9 refers to this as “wonder miracles of the lie.” We have used prestidigitation and legerdemain to define the methods of deception and delusion faced by the believer in the Angelic Conflict.
23. Every believer is going to be challenged to defect from the plan of God by the insidious schemes of Satan and his cosmic system.

⁵ Webster’s New Twentieth Century Dictionary, s.v. “prestidigitation.”

⁶ The Oxford English Dictionary, s.vv. “Prestidigitation,” “prestidigitator.”

24. Our passage is clear that the only way to prevent such assaults from causing a person to “go awry” is not only the presence of doctrine in the soul but accompanying willingness to apply it under pressure.
25. Consequently, there are many who perform the duties of the prestidigitator for the god of this world. There are untold numbers of verbal tricks by which they have learned to neutralize the believer in the Angelic Conflict.
26. When the believer falls victim to these devices and enters into the Cosmic Systems and various stages of reversionism, he is said to “go astray.”
27. The reason given in verse 10 is because they “did not receive a love for the truth.”
28. They are not delivered from personal divine discipline and are the cause for resultant national discipline to their Client Nation.
29. Verse 11 tells us it is for this reason that God sends them the “modus operandi of delusion.” A principle emerges from this: When citizens of a Client Nation reject truth then God sends upon them delusion from the cosmic systems.

Romans 1:24 - Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

v. 25 - For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (NASB)

30. The function of the lie is to deceive and delude people into Satan’s plan of human good and evil. The negative believer becomes a victim, caught in the snare of the devil’s modus operandi of delusion: rhetorical veils, propaganda, disinformation, and doctrines of demons.

31. Such people willingly choose a lifestyle of operational error, or as we have tried to colorfully define it, Operation Gang aft Agley.
 32. This is a Scottish term which means, “to go awry.” If we were studying this phrase in say, Glasgow, Edinburgh, or Dundee, we would translate the word **ἀπόλλυμι (apóllumi)** in verse 10 by the phrase “gang aft agley.” We use the English term, “led astray.”
 33. Prolonged residence in this status and God will send the individual the “modus operandi of delusion,” the accusative singular direct object:
πλάνη (plánē): Delusion or deceit. It means delusion in the sense of misleading the mind: a false belief, believing the lie, buying into fallacious ideas, error in the sense of believing as true that which is false. Therefore, the “modus operandi of delusion.”
- 2 Thessalonians 2:11** - And so for this reason, God sends to them the modus operandi of delusion ...”
34. This results in a lifestyle of error and involvement in Operation Gang aft Agley.
 35. **PRINCIPES:**
 - (1) God’s justice always provides a period of grace before judgment during which the truth is made available for any to objectively consider.
 - (2) Jesus Christ controls history on behalf of the Pivot and if national discipline occurs, it is because the doctrinal inventory of the Pivot was not strong enough to hold the line.
 - (3) Regardless of what calamity the nation might suffer, members of the Pivot are preserved. No mature believer dies unless the Lord permits it.

- (4) Consequently, no matter what the circumstances or events of history may present, the believer will continue to be supplied his daily logistical grace support.
- (5) Just as the Lord puts a wall of fire around the believer who responds to truth, He likewise puts a wall of fire around the nation which responds to truth.
- (6) Yet, when believers revert from believing truth over to believing the lie, collective degeneracy results in national reversionism.
- (7) Jesus Christ's control of history always intervenes in time to preserve the Pivot so that the gospel and doctrine can be preserved into the next generation.
- (8) However, those guilty of rejecting the Word and who have become degenerate in their thinking will be eliminated from history through the five cycles of discipline.
- (9) No great nation in history has ever fallen without the permission of Jesus Christ. The rise, fall, and preservation of nations are all in the perfect plan of God.
- (10) This is the inevitable result of a nation which begins to function under the modus operandi of delusion:
 - a. **Lifestyle of error:** psychological living inside the Cosmic Systems.
 - b. **National scar tissue:** all doctrinal thought has been neutralized. Truth is exchanged for the lie and accepted by the majority of the population.
 - c. **National degeneracy:** the culture begins to transform due to rejection of establishment orientation to authority, grace orientation to life, and doctrinal orientation to reality.

(End CR14-55. See CR14-56 for continuation of study at p. 551.)