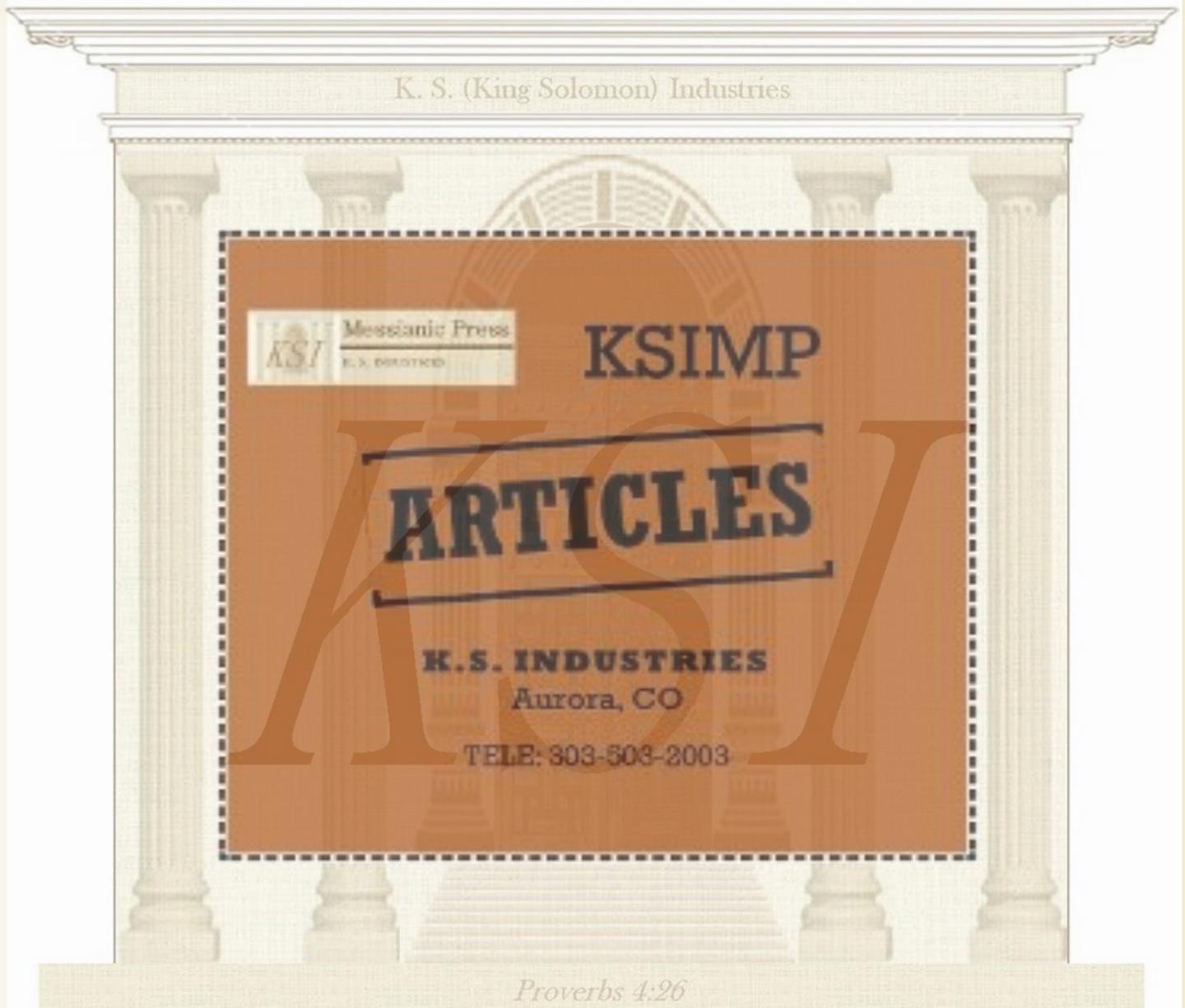


A Strong Delusion

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A STRONG DELUSION

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“...And with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

(2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

There are five characteristics by which you can identify the spirit of Antichrist:

- Deception/deceived by Satan
- Unbelieving/did not receive the truth/willing to accept the lie (Those who reject the gospel lay themselves open to believe the lie)
- Deluded/blinded (Romans 1:26-32, God gave them up)
- unrighteousness/ungodliness (John 3:19, loved darkness rather than light)
- Perishing/condemned (on the road to perdition)

These are very alarming scripture verses. The individuals described as followers of the Antichrist, or those who possess an Antichrist spirit, are witting as well as unwitting subjects. Some people reject God because they openly intend to choose evil. Others reject God out of a self-imposed evil called pride. They simply feel they don't need God. Neither, however, love the truth, and therefore did not believe it. They are easily deceived by Satan for the purpose of promoting unrighteousness, his and/or their own. They are perishing, because they choose to lead corrupt lives, or embrace a corrupt mind—which is indicative of a mind without God and the guidance of His Holy Spirit. Therefore Satan, who is the prince of this world system, is given authority over them by nature of his position.

Under Satan's power, they continue in their depravity and move them closer to destruction. They deny the truth and prefer to live blinded, denying that God is the true light. As a result, God gives them up to the desires of their heart and Satan's system of error. In addition, because they have willingly rejected the Lord, God send them a strong delusion. The Greek word is actually a Hebraism, meaning *strong deceit*. The divine agency and authority of God is distinctly visible. The lesson learned is that the Lord will allow people to dictate their circumstances and chart their own course of nature. When a

person has no love of the truth, and no desire or need to be saved, they will be permitted to manifest who they are. Without the Holy Spirit, it is easy to be deceived. In the case of outright rejection, it seems as though God will allow them to seal the intentions of their heart—to seal their own fate. However, the consequences are dire (Hebrew 6:4-6). Satan is a liar, and will play games with people in order to cause confusion and keep them in bondage.

It's ironic, but in contrast, God will **not** allow them to be confused. The delusion God sends is so strong, and there will be no room for Satan to manipulate their thinking. They will not be tossed to and fro with every wind. The delusion is not a lie. The delusion is so that they believe the lie. The word "delude" is late Middle English and comes from the Latin *de* and *ludere* "to mock" in the context of "to play." I liken it to the cliché: If you keep saying something long enough, people will believe it." For example, the liberal world says that homosexuality is normal, and people are born that way—that it's not a choice. They also say that fornication is normal and an accepted way of living. Sex and violence is all over the media, and people have become desensitized to its effect. That is what I liken to a "strong delusion."

People are not confused. They have chosen to accept and believe the lies of Satan. They like the lies and the enjoy living in the direction the lies take them. They don't want to see the truth. It is not that God wished them to believe a lie. Not willing that any should perish, He would prefer that they believe the truth. Nor does God do anything to "cause" them to believe a lie. The delusion is so strong and obvious, that they are without excuse when they choose it. Homosexuality is completely against the laws of human nature. The obviousness of the error is over the top. It's not an "In the Garden" deception; where Satan asks a hypothetical the question to confuse Eve: "*Did God really say....!*" Rather, a strong delusion a bold mocking of God; in which Satan is permitted to say, "*Everybody knows God is wrong and homosexuals are right.*" In a strong delusion, the sinful majority rules and sways. It is impossible to defeat a strong delusion without the Holy Spirit.

It is impossible to overcome a strong delusion without the Holy Spirit!

God has to remove it!

If He wills.....