

The Lie

Introduction

I have written many times, in the context of Biblical studies, that there is an archetypal lie of the Devil that undergirds all his temptations. This is the lie that a man can become God. In this paper I seek to push beyond theology and explain how this lie undergirds all sorts of satanic movements. It is the lynchpin of the evil that is dominating the world.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man -- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for **the lie**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. Rm 1:18-25

Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil'. Gen 3:4-5

Note that the result of believing the serpent resulted in the opposite of his promise.

The serpent's promise	The actual result
You will not surely die.	Death. The spirit died immediately towards God; the body dies in time.
Your eyes will be opened.	The spirit and soul were darkened.
You will be like God.	Man became like Satan.
Knowing good and evil.	Man already knew good and was holy; now he knows evil and his tendency is towards evil.

Explanation of the lie

Note that Paul uses the definite article *tw/| yeu,dei [to pseudei]* 'the lie'. Many translations use 'a lie' but that is wrong. Only the NKJV gives the correct rendering amongst the major versions. The following have 'a lie': KJV, ASV, NAS, NAB, RSV, NRSV, WEB, RWB, NIV. The following have 'falsehood', 'that which is false' or a falsehood': Darby, BBE, YLT.

What is this lie?

It is the lie that brought about the wrath of God against unrighteousness in man. It is the lie that precipitated the Fall.

What is the character of this damning lie?

It is that man can become a god; the basic nature of the serpent's temptation. It is:

- Not glorifying God.
- Not being thankful.
- Changing the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Making the Creator God something Earthly.
- Exchanging the truth of God for **the lie** that men can become a god. Making something Earthly into something divine.

What are the effects of this lie?

- Man became futile in his thoughts.
- Man's heart became foolish and darkened.
- Professing to be wise, men became fools.
- God gave man up to uncleanness.
- Man's heart is full of lust.
- Men dishonour their bodies.
- Men worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator.

It is interesting that those groups that adopt this lie as fundamental to their belief system believe the opposite. They believe that:

- Through the lie they become wise.
- Through the lie men worship themselves.
- Through the lie men find freedom and purpose.
- Through the lie the heart is enlightened.
- Their lust is a good thing. '*Do what thou wilt*'.
- Uncleanness becomes something to revel in.
- Dishonouring the body leads to spiritual revelation (e.g. sex magic).

Early forms of the lie

The earliest form of idolatrous religion was immediately after the flood with the rebellion and empire building of Nimrod in Sumer. Before Sargon of Akkad, Nimrod had established his empire on the key cities: Babel, Erech (Uruk), Accad (Akkad), and Calneh, in the land of Shinar¹ (Gen 10:10).

We learn more about Nimrod from other sources, such as Josephus. Nimrod was the epitome of rebellion against God. Nimrod developed Babylonian occultism and idolatry that became the foundation for the theogony of the whole world. It set the pattern of gods and goddesses to be worshipped (under changing names) and set rituals for worship based upon witchcraft. Babylonian occultism is the first form of idolatry after the flood and will be the final form of idolatry at the end. One of his pursuits was to build the Tower of Babel that would reach to heaven above any possible flood level that would be impervious to flood damage by using bitumen for mortar. It was a symbol of human idolatry.

One of Nimrod's patterns was to deify human beings. This was particularly those of rank, especially kings and queens. Thus Nimrod himself was worshipped as the sun god while his wife Semiramis was worshipped as the moon goddess. This became standard in many nations – the king was deified as the god of the sun.

Key items of Nimrod's idolatrous pattern repeated in later civilisations include:

¹ Southern Mesopotamia, Babylonia.

- Rebellion against God; deviation from God's ways.
- Hubris.
- Building a tower towards heaven. This includes pyramid and ziggurat (step pyramid) structures.
- Setting up a sacerdotal priestly caste.
- A sacrificial system of offerings that included human sacrifice. A focus upon blood having inherent power. This is a counterfeit of Biblical offerings that pointed forward to the sacrifice of Jesus that was commanded to Adam.
- A pantheon of gods based upon nature (sun, moon, storms, harvest, fertility etc.).
- Deification of people into gods.
- Developing all forms of occultism (magic, spiritualism, and divination).
- Empire building.

In later generations after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the Pharisees (who had always had scribes in Babylon since the captivity) moved to Babylon and settled down. There they also imbibed the occultism surrounding them and eventually formulated the Babylonian Talmud, which is now the principal authority for most modern Jews. It is a syncretism of Babylonian occultism with some ideas from the Torah. Essentially, it turns the ethics of the Torah upside down and advocates multiple forms of wickedness, including paedophilia, theft, usury, fraud, and murder. It especially blasphemes Jesus and hates Christianity. Thus Babylonian occultism is the foundation for modern Judaism.² Islam shows respect to Jesus as the Word of God; Judaism blasphemes Jesus in the foulest of ways.

The Talmud, and especially the Kabbalah which flowed out from it, teaches that Jews are already sons of God unlike other people (who are cattle) and in the messianic age become their own corporate god (egregore).

There is no point detailing the intricacies of Babylonian religion. It simply must be understood that it formed the template of all that followed. Thus Nimrod as sun god became Apollo in Greece or Ra (Re) in Egypt or Surya in Hinduism or Huitzilopochtli in Aztec mythology or Mithras in Persian myth.³ Unusually, in Shinto the sun deity is a goddess, Amaterasu, and in Norse mythology it is the goddess Sol.

The basis of this occultism is that man becomes a god through various means.

Modern expressions of the lie

Now a full examination of all the world's groups that are founded on this lie would require a whole library. Indeed, it is the basis of global non-Christian religion and ideology. I will give a selection of the most important.

Eastern religions

These vary from having no conception of a personal God (e.g. Buddhism) to having millions of gods (e.g. Hinduism). Essentially these have a salvation concept of merging with the universal/world soul after a series of probations (through reincarnation). Man gradually becomes more divine. Thus man, sort of, becomes God by merging with the universal soul.

² See this developed in my paper, 'The Pharisees'.

³ There was often more than one sun god for different aspects of the sun; e.g. Egyptian Khepri for the rising sun, Atum for the setting sun, Re for the noontime sun. In Greece Helios was also a sun god.

In terms of idolatry, man worships many things (imaginary gods, men sent from a god as an avatar, cows, snakes etc.) or other men supposedly enlightened (e.g. Gautama Buddha). Some have a personal god but worship inanimate objects, such as Zoroastrians that worship fire or Shinto that worships spirits and ancestors.

Atheistic religions

Some of these centre on personal character development in a practical manner, such as Confucianism. Others have a sense of religion without a god but are focused on personal mystical development, e.g. Taoism, Jainism, Zen.

In all of these man is his own sovereign character. It may not be articulated that man becomes god in such terms, but effectively man is his own god.

Mormonism

Man had a pre-earth life in the spirit as spirit children of the Father. They then entered into earthly life having a physical, mortal body. Man is progressively becoming a god. Adam's sin was necessary in order to provide bodies for the spirit children of god who were waiting for earth life.

You become a god with your own universe to rule. The saved are in one of three kingdoms: 1) the highest is the Celestial Kingdom for the righteous. They live as gods with their spouses who were married in a Mormon temple and continue to bear spirit children. 2) The Terrestrial Kingdom on some planet containing the less faithful who escaped Purgatory. 3) The Telestial Kingdom on another planet for the remaining souls, the wicked who, after punishment, are offered salvation.

Thus Mormonism is fundamentally about man being a god.

Luciferianism

This encompasses a number of forms of occultism and ideologies that include: modern Gnosticism, Freemasonry, Theosophy, New Ageism, and radical Judaism.

The general theme in this is that Lucifer is the light bringer, the giver of enlightenment. The serpent in Eden is seen as the one bringing wisdom to mankind like Prometheus brought fire to men. The serpent came to teach men to become gods.

These tend to have no afterlife in their theology. Their focus is upon man becoming a god in this world and achieving oneness with the divine while on Earth and living a sort of super life.

This explains why the global Elite, in control of the world under Satan, are so fixated on this world now. With no afterlife there is no divine accountability and no heaven to look forward to, they do everything to secure their diabolical plans to enjoy a life as gods on the Earth. For some this includes transhumanism; changing the body with digital implants to enable certain features to operate. For others the path is mysticism to achieve supposed divine powers through rituals and disciplines. For some it is just outright Devil worship to gain demonic power.

Luciferianism is based upon man becoming a god.

Transhumanism

This is a goal of modern Luciferians. It is to change man's constitution by adding digital technology to overcome certain weaknesses and gain certain advantages. It is making man

a cyborg, half-man, half-machine. The idea that this makes man God, or even better than God (according to their own statements), is preposterous.

These fools think that by being able to control DNA through technology one can stave off the ageing process and immediately restore health when sick. Being internally linked to computers and the Internet holds no attraction for me, but these insane people believe that it will make them God.

Satanism

This is Devil worship under various guises.

Satanists focus upon varying disciplines (e.g. sex-magic, spiritualism or witchcraft) but their essential mantra is '*Do what thou wilt*'. This was the stated fundamental law in Aleister Crowley's Satanism (e.g. Thelema). With the aid of demons, summoned by various practices, man is supposedly given supernatural powers. The accumulation of these powers brings man to the point of divinity. Thus Satanism claims to make men like God able to manipulate nature by supernatural means.

Mysticism

There are many forms of mysticism involving many different types of discipline. The goal is to find unity with God within by dying to oneself. This is considered enlightenment or illumination of the soul.

There are many falsehoods in mysticism, including:

- God lies deep within every person.
- This divine inner core can be tapped into by a certain discipline, such as fasting, contemplation, asceticism, self-emptying, meditation, drugs, whirling etc.
- The main discipline is to become extremely passive, abandoning all intellectual thought and volition (dying to the self). This results in suggestibility and an altered state of consciousness, which is considered to be transcendent or divine. In reality it is extreme emotionalism and souliness.

Mysticism is active in many religions as well as Christian mystics.

If mysticism is really becoming god-like then all mystics would teach the same thing, especially all mystics within a certain religion. In fact the opposite is true; they all teach something different and virtually all teach items contradictory to the Bible.

Transcendentalism

There are multiple forms of this from ancient times. There is philosophical transcendentalism, such as Neo-Platonism, Kantian philosophy or New England transcendentalism (1836),⁴ or even Hinduistic meditation (e.g. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi). It focuses on the concept that: a) divinity pervades all nature and humanity (pantheism); b) through certain disciplines one can receive illumination of the transcendent one.

In all these there is a sense of man uniting with god in some form through enlightenment.

Gnosticism

This is hard to pin down as there are multiple forms from the ancient to the modern variations. Even the original ancient form had multiple variations.

⁴ Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau were central figures.

The essential principle is that there is a hidden knowledge (gnosis) that is only available to disciples that have been illuminated by an adept. This is then developed into a dualism between good and evil, spirit and matter and a good transcendent god versus the evil creator demiurge. A series of aeons (angels or divine emanations) help transmit esoteric knowledge.

The power of illumination is life-changing and adepts become more god-like. The essence of God is known to pneumatics (spiritual, fully initiated, enlightened people).

‘Christian’ denominations

The idea of man becoming God is called *theosis* or *divinisation* in Roman Catholicism and Eastern orthodoxy. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, ‘*The Son of God became man so that we might become God*’ (CCC 460). Catholic theologians refer to comments by Augustine, Irenaeus, John of Damascus and Aquinas suggesting this. They stress that it is not generation in nature but participation by grace. It is attained by a process of purification and illumination. But ‘*becoming God*’ is a dangerous phrase.

They err in misunderstanding what being partakers in the divine nature (2 Pt 1:4) really means. ‘Partakers’ means partnership, sharing. Yes Christians become part of the body of Christ and reflect the glory of God but this is *koinonia*, fellowship in, sharing with. Christians never become of the same substance of God, or divinised. The change in their nature (2 Cor 5:17) does not make them God but men as God intended. They never have life in themselves (aseity) or have any infinite attributes. Man was always intended to be a son of God from creation. Being a redeemed Christian restores this relationship after the Fall, so that man is in close fellowship with God – but he does not become God.

Christian cults

Certain Christian denominations and cults preach a message of ‘Spirit-filled’ Christians becoming ‘*little gods*’ on the Earth. This is predominantly observable in Word of Faith churches and is openly preached by Kenneth Copeland, Benny Hinn, Earl Paulk and colleagues.⁵ The idea is that by faithful positive confession one generates a power that enables you to be as God on Earth, calling into being things that don’t exist.

This just shows the extent of the corruption of occultism within Charismatic churches. The idea of being a little god is as old as Babylonian idolatry and pagan mysticism.

The Christian truth is that there is only one God (Deut 6:4; Rom 3:30; Gal 3:20) who subsists in three Persons (Matt 28:19; Eph 2:18; 1 Jn 5:7). Christians share in the glory of God in a reflected manner (1 Cor 11:7; 2 Cor 1:20, 13:14; 1 Pt 5:10; 2 Pt 1:3). They never become God or have infinite divine attributes.

The eschatological fulfilment of the lie

God will allow man to come to the fulness of sin and he permits the Devil to be unrestrained at the end. This will usher in the judgment of God against sin, which follows the return of Jesus in glory (not humiliation) and the destruction of the Earth by fire.

⁵ *You don’t have a god in you. You are one’ ... ‘You are all little gods’.* Kenneth Copeland, *The Force of Love*, tape BCC-56, Fort Worth, Texas. Copeland, *Praise the Lord*, Trinity Broadcasting Network. Earl Paulk, Casey Treat, Morris Cerullo and Robert Tilton have made similar comments. Note Benny Hinn’s shocking comments: ‘*I’m Benny Jehovah*’. [Spiritual Warfare Seminar, Jubilee Christian Centre 2.5.90. Quoted in *The Confusing World of Benny Hinn*, Fisher and Goedelman, Personal Freedom Outreach, St Louis, (1996) p12.] ‘*You are a little god on earth running around ... I am a little Messiah walking on earth..*’ [Trinity Broadcast Network’s (TBN) *Praise The Lord Show*, 6.12.90.]

This means that there is a full expression of sin in all its forms but particularly the hubris of man to think that he is a god. When the Devil takes his place as the false god of mankind in completeness – that's when the end comes. This is spoken about didactically and symbolically in the NT.

Didactic statement

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed*, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that **he sits as God in the temple of God**, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 2 Thess 2:1-10

This clearly explains that there is a great apostasy, a falling away, both in the church and in the so-called Christian world. Everything considered Christian apostatises. Along with the falling away is the gradual revelation of the man of sin. This is usually personified as the Antichrist: a world leader that equates himself to Christ and is against or in place of Christ. However, it is also perfectly possible to consider this as a corporate matter. The man of sin is all mankind in opposition to God to the fullest.

This is further supported by the fact that the man of sin, the representative of the Devil, sits in the temple of God. Now this has no reference to a temple made by hands.⁶ God does not dwell in constructed temples (Acts 7:48); God dwells in men (2 Cor 6:16). This is the final act of apostasy – the world's population allows Satan to so fill them that he sits like God in what was created to be God's temple. This is the final fulfilment of the lie: the world thinks that it has become God.

Symbolic illustration

Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ... He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number *is 666*. Rev 13:11-12, 16-18

The second beast, the false prophet, speaks for Satan (the dragon). His purpose is to get men to worship the first beast, satanic socio-political power in the world, and thus worship Satan. This worship is accepting the lie.

As a result of accepting the satanic influence and submitting to evil, men are marked both in their mind (forehead) and in their actions (right hand). This means total submission to

⁶ The attention given to a possible reconstruction of a temple in Jerusalem is a Dispensational pipe dream. Even if constructed, it has no relevance whatsoever.

the beast. The symbolic number of this mark is the number of the beast 666. This is now the number of man.

Throughout the Bible the symbolic number for man is 6, as he was created on the 6th day and falls short of divine perfection (7). In this final act of apostasy, where man tries to be as God, his number is changed to 666 – the triple form refers to God (Trinity). It is man trying to be God. 666 is not some demonic numerology or witchcraft symbol; it is man seeking to be God in the final act of rebellion.

Summary

The great fulfilment of the lie (that man can be as God) is worked out in the final act of human rebellion and full expression of iniquity. The world's population (apart from a faithful Christian remnant) is completely given over to the worship of Satan (directly and through proxies like the beast) so that mankind is now the personification of the Devil. In seeking to become God man has become satanic. With this fulfilment of the expression of sin and rebellion, God harvests the world (Rev 14:15) in preparation for a new restored order for those faithful in Christ.

Conclusion

The prime lie of the Devil is that by following him man can become a god. It was the lie that caused the Fall and it is the main lie that undergirds most forms of religion, occultism and mysticism.

Any theology, ideology or philosophy that claims that a man can become God is a lie and a deception.

The LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. Deut 4:39

The LORD our God, the LORD is one! Deut 6:4

I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me. Isa 45:5

I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. Isa 45:9

I am the LORD your God and there is no other. Joel 2:27

There is one God, and there is no other but He. Matt 12:32

There is no other God but one. 1 Cor 8:4

One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Eph 4:6

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen. 1 Tim 1:17

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