

The Attackers: Mandate to “Be on guard” against “deluding propaganda of disinformation”; Propaganda Is Unavoidable while Brainwashing Is a Personal Decision; the System Used in Active Measures; Coopting the Catholic Church; the Traditions of Men; the 70-Year Sabbatical & Restoration, 2 Chron 36:20-23

14. *Sulagōgēō* literally means to capture someone in battle and put them into slavery. But the context has to do with soul slavery by manipulating the person’s ability to discern truth from the lie.
15. It is in the present tense which indicates that the act of despoiling believers’ souls is currently taking place by the agency of propaganda and disinformation.
16. The pronoun “anyone” refers to false teachers as the ones who produce the action.
17. The participle indicates that propaganda and disinformation are continuous actions on the part of the false teachers, actions that take place at the same time as the action of the main verb *blépō*, translated “Constantly be on guard.”
18. This verb is in the imperative progressive present tense which is a command to constantly be on guard, a necessity since the false teachers are constantly bombarding their souls with propaganda and disinformation.

Colossians 2:8 - “Constantly be on guard lest anyone despoil you through the agency of propaganda even disinformation...”

19. The Colossian believers were not on red alert to propaganda and disinformation, consequently their souls were being despoiled into the evil of collectivism.
20. This mental conflict is part of the ongoing Invisible War. It rages daily on the battleground of the soul and the artillery is thought.
21. The artillery of the Dark Side is mentioned next by the preposition **διὰ (diá)**: “through.”

22. This is followed by the ablative singular of agency of the feminine noun **φιλοσοφία (philosophía)**, a compound of the nouns **φιλέω (philēō)**: “love,” and **σοφία (sophía)**: “wisdom.”
23. The translation in all the major English Bibles is “philosophy” although the NIV adds the adjective “deceptive” while the NET adds “deceitful.”
24. These latter translations take into consideration the linking noun **ἀπάτης (apátēs)**, translated “deceit.” I originally interpreted this under the Granville Sharp rule which would make the two words define the same person, i.e., the one who communicates the false doctrine.
25. That person would be the one indicated by the pronoun “anyone.” Instead, this is an hendiadys:

The expression of a single idea by means of two nouns joined by the conjunction ‘and’, rather than a noun qualified by an adjective. The status of this figure is often uncertain, since it usually cannot be established that the paired words actually express a single idea.¹

26. The NIV and NET Bibles indicate that its translators concluded the figure as an hendiadys by translating it “deceptive philosophy” and “deceitful philosophy” respectively. Here’s why.
27. *Philosophía* is followed by the adjunctive conjunction **καί (kaí)**: “and,” which joins the nouns *philosophía* and **ἀπάτης (apátēs)**, translated “deceit” and “deception” by the KJV and NASB respectively.
28. Philosophy is not necessarily a negative concept, however, when joined with the word *apátēs*, it becomes negative. In addition, *apátēs* is described by the adjective **κενός (kenós)**: “something with no real value; worthless; having a deceiving lack of substance.”

¹ Chris Baldick, “hendiadys,” in *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990), 97.

29. Deceit becomes the best word to translate *apátēs* as we note it and its synonyms:
- Deceit:** to impose a false idea or belief that furthers the purposes of the communicator.
- Delude:** implies the inability to distinguish between the true and the false on the part of the target.
- Beguile:** implies a willingness to be charmed or persuaded by the deceiver.
30. When the adjective *kenós* is linked with the noun *apátēs*, there emerges the concept of both propaganda and disinformation.
31. The definition of *apátēs* carries the element of propaganda: the inability to distinguish between the true and the false.
32. Remember this principle: Propaganda is what the deceiver does to you; brainwashing is what you do to yourself.
33. Your conscience, worldview, and inventory of ideas can be altered by propaganda if (1) you do not have a doctrinal filter to identify and reject the rhetorical veil, or (2) you are knowingly and willingly converted by the rhetoric.
34. Therefore brainwashing occurs by willingness on the part of the target to be charmed and persuaded by the deceiver.
35. From this analysis we arrive at the following translation:
- Colossians 2:8** - “Constantly be on guard lest anyone despoil you through the agency of deluding propaganda of disinformation ...
36. Propaganda, or the euphemism, “Active Measures,” is the entire system used to change the way people think. Brainwashing occurs when anyone believes the propaganda.

37. In order to change the way a person thinks, the Dark Side will use the following process and procedure:
Objective: Get you to believe the lie.
Means: Disinformation
Desired end: Change the way you think
Result: You chose to be brainwashed
38. Those without doctrine use their own free will to change the way they think.
39. Those with doctrine in their souls avoid being brainwashed by using their volition not to change the way they think.
40. The nefarious schemes by modern-day Soviet active measures are nothing more than a laboratory model of the system Satan utilizes to attack the thinking of people.
41. It is unfortunate that the current administration does not believe Russia continues to use active measures in its ongoing strategy to undermine the United States. It could well be that the fascination the Left has for socialism may be due to its ignorance of what real Marxism is all about.
42. In our recent review of an article documenting Antonio Gramsci's strategy for the "long march through institutions" we noted this paragraph:

Gramsci proposed setting aside concern for Catholicism as an instructor of doctrine or body of belief and concentrating on it as a potential vehicle for ideology and politics that could be used in the service of Marxist communist order. Use Lenin's geopolitical structure not to conquer the halls of the Vatican and Holy See but rather use it to conquer the mind of the Catholic population itself. Gramsci needed to alter the Christian mind and turn it around completely to an anti-Christian position but keep those efforts secret. The best way to do this was to get individuals, regardless of their station in society, to think of the problems and issues facing them without reference to the Christian God or laws of the Christian God.²

² Joseph Crosson, "Antonio Gramsci: How the Legacy of an Italian Communist Is Wrecking the Catholic Church Today," *The Barnes Review*, May/June 2004, 77.

43. On this subject, I can report from a reliable source that there is presently developing in Russia a close “relationship between the current government in Russia and the Russian Orthodox Church as a forthcoming political movement.”
44. Liberation Theology is alive and well and is on the verge of being used by the Russians as a source of disinformation within Christendom, a heresy that has attracted the attention of former president Jimmy Carter and apparently current occupant of the Oval Office.
45. What we observe overtly in world politics can be found occurring covertly in the Angelic Conflict.
46. This covert activity is referred to by Paul as “deluding propaganda and disinformation”: Lucifer’s active measures.

VI. The Traditions of Men

1. The next phrase in Colossians 2:8 is “according to the tradition of men” (NASB). It is introduced by the preposition **κατά (kata)** plus the singular noun **παράδοσις (parádoxis)**: “according to the tradition.”
2. This makes specific reference to the oral law which was being used to influence believers in the Colossian church to include circumcision as a necessary part of the gospel of salvation.
3. Following the Babylonian captivity, the Jews returned to Jerusalem in a state of disorganization.
4. The temple had been destroyed, the twelve tribes had been dispersed to the four points of the compass, and the Levitical priesthood had suffered 70 years of inactivity.
5. But God, in fulfillment of His prophecy to Jeremiah in Jeremiah 29:10–14, allowed the Jews to return to the land.

6. The Jewish Tanach ends with the book called Divrei-HaYamim: The Matter of the Days. Christian Bibles divide the book in half to form 1 and 2 Chronicles, the last four verses of which contain the prophecy of the Jews return to the land:

2 Chronicles 36:20 - Those who [the Jewish Pivot] had escaped the sword he [Nebuchadnezzar II] carried off to Bavel [Babylon], and they became slaves to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia.

v. 21 - Thus was fulfilled the word of ADONAI [the LORD] spoken by Yirmeyahu [Jeremiah], “until the land has been paid her Shabbats [Sabbaths]—for as long as it [the land] lay desolate, it kept Shabbat [the Sabbath], until the seventy years had passed.

v. 22 - Now in the first year of Koresh [Cyrus], king of Persia, so that the word of ADONAI [the LORD] spoken by Yirmeyahu [Jeremiah] might be fulfilled, ADONAI [the LORD] activated the spirit of Koresh [Cyrus], king of Persia, to proclaim throughout his entire kingdom, and put in writing as well:

v. 23 - “Here is what Koresh [Cyrus], king of Persia, says” ADONAI [the LORD], the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms on earth, and He has charged me to build Him a house in Yerushalayim [Jerusalem], in Y’hudah [Judah]. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may ADONAI [the LORD] his God be with him! He may go up!³

7. God allowed the Pivot to return to the land once it had enjoyed its seventy Sabbaths. This Sabbath was to be observed every septennial or seventh year. Details about its observance give insight into the reason for the Babylonian captivity and the purpose of its length of seventy years.

³ Ben H. Stern, “Divrei-Hayamim Bet 36:20–23,” in *Complete Jewish Bible* (Clarksville, MD: Jewish New Testament Publications, 1998), 1222.