

"Beware of False Prophets"

Part 2

Introduction: Last week we began to look at a study of false prophets. We really only looked at one point.

I. Identifying False Prophets

We gathered most of our information from the Words of Moses in Deuteronomy 13.

Deuteronomy 13:1-4

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

² And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;

³ Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

⁴ Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

Here in these verses we gathered a great deal of information concerning false prophets and I want to quickly review over some of what we discussed before we move on today.

1. The identity of a prophet cannot be determined by signs and wonders.

There were occasions when God allowed a false prophet to speak, and his prediction would come true. God permitted this to test His people.

2. A false prophet is known by his or her desire to lead us away from the will of God.

It is very clear in these verses that anyone who attempts to lead us away from walking in obedience to the Word of God is considered a false prophet. When the entire situation with COVID started you remember how we were instructed.

- **Many churches were forbidden to meet.**
- **When they did meet, they were told not to sing.**
- **We were forbidden from visiting the sick and the dying.**
- **We were forbidden from having proper funerals for our loved ones.**

➤ **We were forbidden to shake hands.**

All of these are specific things which we are commanded to do in the Word of God. The goal behind these modern-day false prophets is to get us to abandon the TRUE GOD and to follow the government as a god. I explained last week that in order for communism to exist the government MUST be the highest authority that the people bow to. Our God must be removed, and the government put in His place.

I am by no means antigovernment. The government has been established by God and I am to submit unless the government commands me to live contrary to the Bible.

Back to the thought, those who told us to live contrary to the Bible are false prophets.

Our problem is we have a difficult time shaking our Sunday School Theology. In other words we have an Old Testament idea of what a false prophet is and if the false prophets today do not fit the mold, we miss them. We have a picture of prophets from John the Baptist' description.

Matthew 3:4

And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

Today they dress in suits, and they hold governmental offices, and they are paid with tax payer dollars.

3. We can know them by their fruits.

Matthew 7:15-17, 20

¹⁵ *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

¹⁶ *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*

¹⁷ *Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.*

²⁰ *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

Those who are false prophets today are the very people who are advocating for abortion, they are advocating for transgenderism, and they are advocating for gay rights. These are their fruits! Not only that but what we have seen is that we are told to not do certain things but those are telling us not to are doing what we are not permitted to do.

4. Their main tool is fear.

A. The alliance between Ahab and Jehoshaphat.

II. The Motivation of False Prophets.

Notice 1 Kings 22:1-2

We step into a scene in which things have been rather quiet in Israel. There has been no war between Israel and Syria for three years. Ahab is the king of Israel and in verse 2 we see that he is visited by Jehoshaphat king of Judah. There is a family connection between these two. The son of Jehoshaphat, Jehoram had married the daughter of Ahab.

This was one of the disastrous alliances which Jehoshaphat made. Ahab was a wicked king who hated God and his family was following in his steps. Jehoshaphat made another disastrous alliance while he was visiting with Ahab.

Notice 1 Kings 22:3-4

Let us notice the parallel passage.

2 Chronicles 18:1-3

Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.

² And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead.

³ And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war.

The king of Syria had promised to return certain cities and Ramothgilead had not yet been returned so Ahab makes the decision to take it back and he asks Jehoshaphat to join him. This is certainly an unequal yoke but that is not our focus.

Amos 3:3

³ Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Notice 1 Kings 22:5-7

Jehosaphat was cautious and he wanted to see what the Lord had to say concerning the battle. Ahab had 400 prophets who were willing to step up. These were not the prophets

of Baal these were prophets who claimed to be prophets of Jehovah. We shall see in a few minutes that one of them will claim to have the Spirit of God.

This should cause us to be very cautious. They claimed to speak for God, but they really spoke for Ahab. They had been hand selected prophets that Ahab kept close to him because they would tell him what he wanted to hear. They were on his payroll and so they were puppet prophets. Ahab was a man who desired to hear nothing but peace and prosperity.

Application:

These false prophets are all around us today. They might claim to speak for God, but they do nothing but silence the Truth of God's Word. Their goal is to stay close to the hand that feeds them and continue to tell them what they want to hear. If they are paid to spread fear that is what they do because they want to please those who are in positions of power. There is a desire within these modern-day prophets as with those in Ahab's day, to be drawn to power.

Let us also be very careful about the flesh's desire for power or even a seat at a VIP table. You may get invited to sit at the table but in return you will have compromised in your delivery of the Truth. Be very careful because the flesh will lead you to set the Truth aside/silence the Truth in order to be accepted by the powerful or the elites.

Apparently, Jehoshaphat knew these men were controlled by Ahab and not by God. So he requested a prophet of the Lord.

Notice 1 Kings 22:8

Ahab informs Jehosaphat that there was one man whose name was Micaiah, but he was hated because he never spoke favorable words for Ahab, so he was not invited.

Application:

I need to make two applications here:

1. Let us examine ourselves to see if we are like Jehosaphat or Ahab.

Too many times we are like Ahab in that we don't want to hear the pure Truth of God's Word because we have our own idea about how life should happen and if God's Word cuts across the grain of this picture, then like Ahab, we want to keep it at a distance. There are many people today who do not want to hear the Truth about what is happening in our nation and across the globe because they enjoy their lives here and they want the world to stay the way that it used to be. Therefore they stay away from Bible teachers who speak the Truth about the direction it is all headed.

2. Let us understand that when we speak the Truth of God there are going to be many times when we will not be called into the meeting. Don't expect to be invited into the meetings of power if you are someone who delivers the Truth of God's Word straight up.

Luke 6:26

Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Notice 1 Kings 22:9-12

While the kings are waiting for Micaiah to be brought in, they set up a sort of theater for the 400 prophets. Then there is one by the name of Zedekiah who gets very theatrical. He grabs a couple of pieces of iron and parades around like he has horns, and he tells the kings this is what is going to happen when they go against the Syrians. He assures them they will push the Syrians until they are destroyed. Now there is something here that we do not see on the surface. Zedekiah does something that we must not miss. When he pretends to use horns to show how the Syrians will be pushed back, he is twisting the Words of Moses.

Deuteronomy 33:1,16-17

And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.

¹⁶ And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.

¹⁷ His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh.

The Words of Moses had nothing to do with what Zedekiah was referring to, but Zedekiah is so deceptive that in his charismatic way he is able to take a part of the Bible that is completely out of context and use it to enhance the lie that he is telling to the kings. His ability to do this makes his message look and sound even more authentic. As he does this, he whips the other remaining prophets into frenzy and they are baking him up.

Notice 1 Kings 22:12 again.

Application:

This reminds me of the Words of Peter as he warned his readers.

2 Peter 2:1-3

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

² *And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

³ *And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

Peter warns of false teachers that will twist the Truth. We are talking about false prophets today that will also twist the Truth in order to lead God's people away from His will. They will use the Word of God completely out of context in order to support their message. This again shows us the importance of learning the Word of God.

2 Timothy 2:14-16

¹⁴ *Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.*

¹⁵ *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

¹⁶ *But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.*

Let us remember the words of Paul in our study of Ephesians.

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

²⁶ *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

²⁷ *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

Notice 1 Kings 22:13

Now the scene goes to the messenger that was sent to get Micaiah. We don't know how far he had to go but, on the way, to see the kings he filled him in on all that was happening. Then he said something like this, "Micaiah, 400 prophets told the king it was God's will for him to go to battle and he would defeat the king of Syria. Now make sure you do not go into this meeting and say anything that will upset the apple cart. Just keep it low key Micaiah."

This man also knows what Micaiah is like. He knows he will speak the Truth regardless of what others say.

Application:

Let me give you a couple points of application here:

1. When we speak the Truth of God's Word there is going to be the temptation to soften the message.

There are going to be people in the meeting that you know will be offended by the Truth because of how they are living. I had a message sent to me before a funeral one time and the demand was that I just talk about the person and not share the Gospel.

I had an aunt that died and there was no plan for a service. So I started to call to get a service set up. When certain of the family found out they suggested that we do it at Kelly's Restaurant and I know the plan was to silence me. The service never happened because there were those who did not want to be confronted with the Truth.

We can expect this. Someone will come and they will say, "So and so are here so maybe you better be careful what you say. Just tone it down a bit. Don't rock the boat. You know how sensitive they are."

Notice 1 Kings 22:14

Conclusion:

Let us be as Micaiah! No matter who is in the meeting. No matter who is in the room. Let us understand that it is God who we shall answer to for what we say. I will not answer to you, and I will not answer to Uncle Pete.

Jeremiah 1:8

⁸ *Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.*