

"Beware of False Prophets"

Part 3

1 Kings 22

Introduction: For the past two Sunday mornings we have been looking at messages that are focused upon false prophets. It is my responsibility to help you to understand what is happening in our nation today so that you will be equipped for the spiritual battle we are in. What we are seeing in our nation is a spiritual battle and there are people who are modern day false prophets who desire to keep us from walk in obedience to God.

We need to be able to identify these false prophets and know when to push back against the mandates which they are pushing upon us.

Now, there are some people who believe that we are to comply with the mandates and not resist in anyway.

1 Peter 2:13-14

¹³ Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

¹⁴ Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

But there are many examples of people not complying with the government in the Word of God.

- The Hebrew midwives.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
- The wise men who came to worship Jesus.
- The apostles when told not to preach in Jesus name.

These people were not complying with the government, but they were being obedient to God. There are times when not complying is obedience to Jesus Christ.

In our study we have looked at several points:

I. Identifying False Prophets

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.*

Last week we began to look at a message from 1 Kings 22 and here we looked at the second point.

II. The Motivation of False Prophets.

Notice 1 Kings 22:1-12

Notice 1 Kings 22:13-14

These were the two verses that we finished with last week and I stopped with an important point:

Micaiah is the example for us to follow.

1. **When we speak the Truth of God's Word there is going to be the temptation to soften the message. (:14)**

This then brings us to the next point.

2. **Speaking the Truth will bring confrontation.**

Micaiah had made a commitment to deliver the Truth but let us consider whom he is going to speak to. This is Ahab. The most wicked king ever to rule Israel.

1 Kings 16:30-33

³⁰ *And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.*

³¹ *And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.*

³² *And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.*

³³ *And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.*

He and his wife Jezebel had slain the prophets of God. They had Naboth killed just so that Ahab could obtain his vineyard.

Micaiah had every reason to believe he would not survive if his message was not favorable. So the question is, "Will Micaiah have the resolve to speak the Truth?"

Notice 1 Kings 22:15

The first message that Micaiah delivered was the same as the other prophets. But apparently, he did so with sarcasm.

Notice 1 Kings 22:16

Ahab must have detected the sarcasm and he exhorted Micaiah to tell him the Truth. So, Ahab will now speak the Truth.

Notice 1 Kings 22:17

Here was the Truth that Ahab did not want to hear. He would die. Israel would be scattered like sheep with no shepherd. This means their leader would die.

Notice 1 Kings 22:18

Ahab now complains to Jehosaphat when he is given the Truth. He claimed he wanted the Truth, but he could not handle the Truth. He does what others do when they are given the Truth and it offends them, they show hatred toward the messenger. When a person comes to hate the messenger who speaks the Truth it is a manifestation of the wickedness in their heart.

Application:

For this very reason we can expect to be hated when we speak the Truth. Those who are believing a lie would desire for you and me to "go with the flow" or "just to agree with the majority". The bottom line is that there are many today who do not want to hear the Truth of God's Word because it does not align with, the way they desire to live their lives.

John 3:18-20

¹⁸ *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Ahab is so dead that he cannot even respond with repentance. His heart has been hardened so much because of his rejection of the Word of God. The prophecy of his death does not even impact him. Neither will the next verses that should have shocked him into reality.

Now let me take you into the mind of Ahab and the other 400 prophets. They are listening to Micaiah, and they are wondering how 400 men could be wrong and 1 man be right? Micaiah is about to explain how this happened and they will not like his explanation.

Notice 1 Kings 22:19-23

Here is a very interesting portion of God's Word. God had permitted an evil spirit to speak through each prophet so as to deceive Ahab and to lead him to a battle in which he would die. Why would God permit such a thing to happen? It was permitted by God because these prophets as well as Ahab had rejected Him. The prophets refused to bow to God, but they would bow to Ahab and Ahab refused to bow to God, but he would bow to idols.

Application:

I want you to see the warning that is before us here. Many of the people who are shouting out orders for the nation today are people who have not bowed to God, but they are deep into idolatry. They have rejected God and His Word, and this is obvious because they favor abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, and socialism. There is a very high possibility that these people, like the prophets of Ahab, are under the influence of demonic spirits. Now someone would ask, "Why would God permit this today?" I believe there are 2 main reasons.

a. It is a test for God's people.

The test is, are we going to place our faith in the ungodly or in God and His Word? God has allowed their fruits to be manifest so that we can know who the false prophets are.

Matthew 7:15-16a, 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.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

I cannot help but wonder how our Lord feels when His people place more faith in the ungodly than they do in Him.

Back to the question, "Why would God permit demonic influence today?"

b. It is to lead and prepare the ungodly for the Tribulation.

If you listened to President Joe Biden this past week you would have heard a dictator. He does what he wants and answers to no one. He is not held accountable for any actions.

Daniel 7:24-25

24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Biden is not the Anti-Christ, but he is abusing his power to change the times and the laws. This is all preparation for the coming of the Anti-Christ. When the Anti-Christ comes, he will not need to invent anything new. He will be able to step on the scene and do what he will do.

I want to show you what we are seeing unfold before our eyes today.

Romans 1:18-24, 28-32

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Hese verse describe exactly what is happening today. Now, when we speak out to proclaim this people are offended.

3. Speaking the Truth will bring consequences.

Notice 1 Kings 22:24-27

Micaiah gets punched in the face and he gets thrown in prison and fed meager rations. He is hated for the Truth.

John 15:17-21

17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

²⁰ Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

²¹ But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

Notice 1 Kings 22:27 again.

I want you to notice that after Ahab is confronted with the Truth several times, he still refuses to believe it. This is how hard his heart is. He will walk right into his own destruction.

Let me get you back to Micah.

4. When we speak the Truth, we will often stand alone.

Conclusion:

- **Don't be deceived by the majority.** There is much demonic deception happening today.
- **Don't be afraid to stand alone.** Stand for the Truth even when the world is against you because God is with you.

2 Timothy 4:16-17

¹⁶ At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

¹⁷ Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.