

**"Beware of False Prophets"**

**Part 4**

**1 Kings 22**

**Introduction:** In our study of false prophets we have looked at a great deal of information which applies to our lives.

**1. Identity**

A false prophet is anyone who attempts to lead us or order us away from walking in obedience to the Word of God.

**Deuteronomy 13:1-4**

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

*<sup>2</sup> 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;*

*<sup>3</sup> 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.*

*<sup>4</sup> 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.*

A false prophet may make a prediction that will be accurate, so accuracy is not the best way to identify the false prophet. But the best way to identify the false prophet is to pay close attention to what he is using his message for. If he uses his message to take us down a path of disobedience, then he is not to be followed. If he says we cannot meet, we cannot visit, only certain people are essential to work then he is to be recognized as a false prophet for God commands us to do each of these.

False prophets exist today just as they did in the Old Testament and in Jesus, day. The problem in the church today is that we live with Sunday School theology, and we miss them because they are not dressed like Old Testament prophets. Today they wear suits and ties, And they sit in political offices.

They are not to be identified by their clothing but by their message and their fruits.

**Matthew 7:15-16a, 20**

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

<sup>16</sup> **Ye shall know them by their fruits.**

<sup>20</sup> Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.**

I want to comment on how they are wolves in sheep's clothing. In the Old Testament prophets wore rough garments. They were making a statement with their clothing that said they had separated from the world's system of luxury to give their lives to God. So when a false prophet came to deceive the people, he would dress as a true prophet.

#### **Zechariah 13:4**

<sup>4</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; **neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive:**

#### **Application:**

A false prophet in the Old Testament would therefore dress in a way to deceive and he would give the impression he cared for the people. But his true goal would be to lead the people away from God.

In our world today the false prophets are very subtle. They wear many garments. The garment of LOVE, COMPASSION, HEALTH, THE COMMON GOOD and so on. But they are ravening wolves with the intent to destroy and to lead us to another god to replace the ONE TRUE GOD. We can quickly identify them today by their fruits.

#### **2. Motivation**

False prophets are motivated by personal gain. Namely position and power.

Notice 1 Kings 22:1-6

These men were on Ahab's payroll so they would only prophecy good. But Jehosaphat suspected these men were not speaking the Word of God, so he requested another prophet.

**Notice 1 Kings 22:7-18**

Micaiah's message contradicted the message of the 400. So, the question was, "How could 400 men be wrong and 1 man right?" Micaiah would now explain how they could be wrong.

**Notice 1 Kings 22:19-23**

The Lord had permitted a lying spirit to deceive the entire group as well as Ahab.

This is what we are seeing in our nation today. Those in places of leadership have suppressed the Word of God so long and they have set themselves up for deception.

**1 Corinthians 10:19-20**

*19 What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?*

*20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*

Today there are many who are deceived by demonic spirits. There are 2 reasons:

- a. To test the church.
- b. To prepare the earth dwellers for the Tribulation.

**Notice 1 Kings 22:24-28**

We do not know what happened to Micaiah. He may have died in prison. This brings us to where we are today.

**I. The Decision**

**Notice 1 Kings 22:29**

Here is a verse that needs our attention. After Jehosaphat listened to the prophecy and the description of the vision by Micaiah he STILL went to battle. Why did he do this? He is a righteous king and here he is going against the Word of God. We are not told why he decided to go but I do want to give you a few thoughts to consider.

- **Jehosaphat may have been weak.**

First of all he was in the minority. I can just imagine the pressure that was put on him. Ahab may have said, "Well, we are going to battle regardless of what Micaiah says." Then Ahab looks at Jehosaphat and asks, "What about you?" He looks around and 400 prophets are waiting for his answer. Zedekiah just punched Micaiah in the face for going against the majority. Jehosaphat is standing by himself against over 400 so this may be why he gave in. But that is no excuse.

**Application:**

We are given a command in Corinthians that needs to stay at the front of our minds.

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be ye steadfast, unmoveable**, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

We need to understand that we need fellowship with one another. If you are just dipping your feet in church once in a while and you are not here to be strengthened by the Spirit, then you will never stand in a situation such as Jehosaphat was in.

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

<sup>25</sup> Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

There are many believers today who are not strong enough to stand on their own and so they simply give in to the pressure of the majority around them.

➤ **Jehosaphat may have been deceived.**

Demonic deception is very powerful and possibly he believed the message of the 400 instead of Micaiah's message.

**Application:**

This thought is also a reminder as to the need to be saturated with the teaching of God's Word.

**Ephesians 4:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

<sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

<sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

<sup>14</sup> That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, **whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**

**1 Timothy 4:1-2**

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

*<sup>2</sup> Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

The demonic spirits are not to be taken lightly. Let me show you what Jude wrote.

**Jude 1:18-23**

*<sup>18</sup> How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.*

*<sup>19</sup> These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.*

*<sup>20</sup> But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,*

*<sup>21</sup> Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

*<sup>22</sup> And of some have compassion, making a difference:*

*<sup>23</sup> And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*

**II. The Battle**

**Notice 1 Kings 22:30-38**

Ahab died just as Micaiah had foretold. This was the fulfillment of God's Word through Micaiah and through Elijah.

**1 Kings 21:17-19**

*<sup>17</sup> And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,*

*<sup>18</sup> Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.*

*<sup>19</sup> And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.*

**Application:**

When I look at Ahab, I am reminded that when God says our life is going to end there is no way to escape the appointed time.

**Job 14:1-2, 5**

*Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.*

*<sup>2</sup> He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.*

*<sup>5</sup> Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;*

People can do all they desire to avoid this appointed day but when it comes each person will keep the appointment. You can exercise and eat healthy, but you will not live beyond your appointed time. Now exercising and eating healthy might possibly make your days more enjoyable as you approach your appointed day, but it will not extend the boundary.

Now I want to take you to see this same battle in Chronicles.

**2 Chronicles 18:28-31**

*<sup>28</sup> So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead.*

*<sup>29</sup> And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and I will go to the battle; but put thou on thy robes. So the king of Israel disguised himself; and they went to the battle.*

*<sup>30</sup> Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots that were with him, saying, Fight ye not with small or great, save only with the king of Israel.*

*<sup>31</sup> And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It is the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them to depart from him.*

**Application:**

Even when we are in situations that are outside the will of God our Lord is with us and He protects us. But that does not mean there are not consequences.

**2 Chronicles 19:1-2**

*And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem.*

*<sup>2</sup> And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldst thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.*

**Conclusion:**

There are consequences for looking to the false prophets and not to God. Let us be as David.

**Psalm 139:20-22**

*<sup>20</sup> For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain.*

*<sup>21</sup> Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?*

*<sup>22</sup> I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.*