



Beware of False Prophets

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Beware of False Prophets

Millions of people know about the tragedy that happened with Jim Jones-the famous cult leader that took his followers into the jungle, and then had a mass suicide.

Millions also know about the “Whacko” from Waco Texas, who had his own little version of Armageddon back in 1993. This man apparently thought he was Jesus Christ. This scary thing is-his followers *believed* him!

Now, we have seen, recently, about the Solar Temple Cult, and the Cult called heaven’s Gate. These people believed that UFOs were going to land, and take them all away into heaven. And the only way to be “saved” was to follow them. These people cut themselves off from the rest of society, and form their own little community, and they had this “us” “them” attitude.

In India, they have many men called “Gurus” who tell you that they are God, and if you want to know the way in which to be saved, or break your “Karma” you must listen and follow them. Since this phenomenon is on a national scale, look at India *as a result of their religion*; disease, deformities, squalor and sickness. A logical question would be for the followers of Hinduism are, “With all the squalor sickness and disease, *what has your religion ever done for you?*” Or, “If your religion is right, then why do you and millions of you come to CHRISTIAN NATIONS to have a better life?” You can also ask the same questions to Islamic and Buddhist people as well.

But what about all these self proclaimed Messiahs and Gurus, claiming to be God? What about these Charismatic leaders who have these great followings, like the Rev. Sun Young Moon, better known as “Moonies?” Does the Bible warn about all these people-how they act, and what their motives are? And, are there others who come in “Jesus name” and deceive as well?

God’s Warning

Almighty God warned his people Israel that there would be false prophets and Christ’s deceiving the masses of people in the world. In the Old Testament, the book called Deuteronomy God says: “If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, *and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,* “*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;*

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

“Ye shall walk after YHWH your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him” (Deut 13:1-4). It’s a test, to see whether we will cling to the true God, or go after the gods of India, Native America, China, Islam etc...

Notice that if a prophet produces a miracle in the name of a false God, then he is a false prophet. Miracles are not the test of truth, the *message* is! For there is a great spiritual force called Satan the Devil, and he has his own religions out there, and he gives them power to do great things.

Jesus said, “For there shall arise false Christ’s, and false prophets, and shall *shew great signs and wonders*; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:24). Again miracles are not the test of truth unless the message was from the Bible as well.

Beware of False Prophets

The Bible says that the great false prophet: “doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,” (Rev 13:13).

Paul wrote of this great person and that his power came from Satan the devil: “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,” (2 Thess 2:9).

So this is the great test God has put towards us, to cling to the truth, or to go after a lie, the false religions of this world. Why does God want us to go through this test? So after close examination of these religions as we are commanded to do, “try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). Then we are to come to the conclusion that the Bible is the word of God, and that the God of the Bible is the true God, and these false religions are back by Satan the Devil and his deception, and in the end we will “love YHWH your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Also notice in Deuteronomy, that these false prophets have come to lead you way from the Eternal God, and to serve a pagan god, “Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;” They also want you to stop keeping the commandments of God, which is the way mankind ought to live to be happy, and to produce everything we really want. And instead to walk in *their* ways that lead to destruction.

Again, look at the ways of the heathen that God says not to follow. The nations of India, China, Iran, Iraq, Egypt etc...nothing but squalor, war, destruction, disease and poverty. There are One billion Muslims in this world, and 7 hundred million of them are in poverty, that over 80%.

The same can be said of the Hindu nation of India etc.... The only reason some of these people are leading good lives is because they have taken up the western way of life which is based on the Bible. When we just take a glimpse of the western nations based on the Ten Commandments and God’s law, we see a vast difference on a national scale. We are the richest nations that the world has ever seen. The Healthiest nations the world has ever seen. But now, we are turning from the true God, and we are losing much of the blessings that God has given us.

Jesus’ Warning

Jesus warned his church: “*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*”

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

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

“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

“*Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them*” (Matthew 7:15-20).

What are the “fruits” according to the Bible? The “fruits of righteousness,” see Luke 12:18; 2 Corinthians 9:10; Philippians 1:11. And what is the Biblical definition of “righteousness?” “...for all thy **COMMANDMENTS ARE RIGHTEOUSNESS**” (Psalm 119:172). This is the mark of a true prophet of God. One who preaches the observance of God’s law-His fruits are living and preaching the observance of God’s law in his own life, and preaching to others to do the same, *it*

Beware of False Prophets

is shown in his ministry. The false prophets are the ones who do the *opposite*, like Jim Jones. What fruits did he produce? Massive suicide! You can also say the same thing towards David Koresh and the Solar Temple Cult. *Their fruits are Death and destruction!* God's ways are the ways of life as God proclaims to Israel: "I have set before you *life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*" (Deut 30:19).

What are the fruits of the pagan nations of this world? Poverty, sickness and death! Why? Because people listen to their so-called spiritual leaders like the Gurus of India, the Imams of Islam and so on, that tells these people that they should bath in a river infested with dead animals! Or telling them to kill people who don't adhere to their particular brand of religion. What are their fruits? Death!

Also, we see in the mainstream Christians religions of this world like Catholicism, Protestantism, Baptists and Methodists etc... Preaching that God's law is done away! Problem is you can't find that statement in the Bible! Instead Jesus said "**Think not** that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, **but to fulfil**" (Matthew 5:17). To fulfill and obligation to someone means to "do it." He did just that! "**I kept my Father's commandments,**"(John 15:10). To preach that you do not have to keep God's law, means death. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Sin is violating the law of God (1 John 3:4), so by their "fruits" you shall know them.

Doctrines of the Cults

Listed below are some of the doctrines of the cults, notice how much they are in contrast to the word of God.

Many of these cults create for themselves their own world, by cutting themselves off from the rest of the people in the world, and have their own water tower, compound, monastery etc...*Is this found in the bible to isolate yourself from the rest of the world? Absolutely not!* Instead, the Bible teaches the opposite!

"Ye are [God's Church] the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill *cannot be hid*.
"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

"*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven*" (Matthew 5:14-16). The Church of God must dwell with people so they can be an example of Good works. If we hide, how can men know the truth of God? We must live and be a part of the communities, to share the Gospel with people. If you have knowledge of the Bible, why would God want you to go off and hide somewhere? How would other people get the message of the Gospel? How would God's word spread? How would the work of God get done? *Whoever teaches you to join a monastery or go off into the jungle, or join some sort of compound in the desert somewhere is a false prophet!*

What about selling everything you own and totally change your life. Quit your job, leave your family, and join some leader of a cult, and go off somewhere to live with him and his followers? Is this in the Bible? No!

Beware of False Prophets

“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?”

“Blessed is that servant, whom his lord *when he cometh shall find so doing*”(Matthew 24:45-46). When God gives you responsibility in your life, you don't just drop everything and up and leave. Whatever thing you're doing, a doctor or lawyer etc... You continue to do it until his coming. We must take responsibility in our lives; this is what the Bible teaches! Then apply the Christians way of life to those responsibilities.

Paul had the same problem in the Thessalonian church. They were selling everything they owned, and totally changed their lives *because they thought Jesus was coming at any moment*. Paul rebuked such action and said: “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that *walketh disorderly*, and not after the tradition which he received of us...For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that *if any would not work, neither should he eat*” (2 Thess 3:6, 10).

The source comments, “...walketh disorderly lives in idleness. Some of the Thessalonians, anticipating the Lord's imminent return, stopped their regular employment” (JFB Commentary on the Whole Bible, p.582). The “tradition” that they received from the Apostles was to continue, or as Jesus said “Occupy till I come.” (Luke 19:13), live your life, do the work of God, and stay faithful until he came again to set up the kingdom of God.

Christ is “Here” Christ is “There”

I have seen many ads in the newspaper saying that Christ is in Ottawa, or that Christ is in downtown Toronto. And everyone was supposed to go and see him. Many people say to go to India because Christ is some guru that lives there. There is now a new claim that Jesus is in Australia and people are flocking to him and listen to his teachings. Are we supposed to believe these claims?

“Then if any man shall say unto you, *Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not*.

“For there shall arise false Christ's, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect...Wherefore if they shall say unto you, *Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not*.” (Matthew 24:23-24, 26). Why did Jesus say this? Because he reveals the true and ONLY WAY in which you will know that it is Jesus, and there will be no mistaking it!

“For as the *lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west*; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

“*For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together*” (v.27-28).

The word “lightning” is a bad translation. The word means “glare” or “light” not “lightning” as in a thunderstorm. But what light goes from East to West every single day? The light of the world, THE SUN! The second coming of Christ is going to be like the sun coming closer and closer to this earth so that the WHOLE WORLD IS GOING TO SEE IT!

Jesus is called the “Light of the World” (John 8:12; 9:5).

Beware of False Prophets

As John wrote about Jesus “his countenance was as the *sun shineth in his strength*” (Rev 1:16).

In the Book of Zechariah it describes in vision the second coming of Christ and it says, “And it shall come to pass in that day, *that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:*

“But it shall *be one day* which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: *but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.*” (14:6-7). Jesus being the light of the world, and like the sun that shines in full strength, *that day* when he comes, the evening will be like day time because Jesus is shining like the sun and when he comes will appear to the world like a second sun in the sky and for a complete day he will be in the sky so the whole world can see him, then come and dwell on the earth, this is the “day of the Lord.”

And what about the statement about the “eagles” that are “gathered” together? This statement means that Jesus is coming to US, WE DON'T GO TO HIM! When a person is looking for a missing lamb, and looks up and sees vultures circling where does one go? Where the vultures are circling! The church of God and Israel are persecuted at this time and Jesus is *coming to them* to save them, it is “for the elect's sake” (v.22). So the deception that we are to go to some man in a hotel, or answering some newspaper ad, or some guru in India which claims to be Christ and we are *to go to him*, is totally false!

End of the World?

Does the Bible teach that the world is going to end in total destruction? Absolutely not! The Bible talks about the coming kingdom of God. *That is what the good news is!* God is going to set up his government that is in heaven on earth forever! Yes a time of trouble is coming called the “great tribulation.” But Jesus is going to save Israel from that time of trouble and bring them back to their own land *see Isaiah 11; Jeremiah 30; Ezekiel 36*. The Bible does not talk about the end of the world. In fact, the Bible says that God is coming back to SAVE US FROM WHAT WE ARE DOING TO OURSELVES. *God is not interested in trying to kill us*, but he wants to SAVES us from what we are doing to ourselves: “*And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved:* but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days” (Mark 13:20).

Who To Believe?

What does God say about people who preach the Bible? How are you to know that they are preaching the truth? God says “prove all things” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Everything a person tells you about the Bible makes sure it's in the Bible before you believe. Don't just take his or her word for it. Remember God made you a free thinker. Do not give up your own personal sovereignty to any man. The only one you should submit to is you maker God and no one else. That's why I always say, “don't believe me, believe YOUR BIBLE!” Follow no man; follow Jesus Christ and his word. Check up on the things I say, prove these things that I write to you for yourself, don't take my word for it; believe your Bible, not me!

If you walk into a church don't just check your brains out at the door, God gave you a brain use it wisely, for we are to be “*therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves*” (Matthew 10:16).

Beware of False Prophets

Setting Dates?

There have been many church leaders, and cults that have attempted to set dates for the return of Christ. Especially when the year 2000 A.D. was approaching, there seems to have been a rise in speculation to the coming of Christ. This is also condemned in the Bible, “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, *but my Father only.*”

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

“And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, *which the Father hath put in his own power*” (Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:6-7). Jesus doesn’t even know! It’s whenever the FATHER DECIDES! Setting dates for the coming of Christ is a futile pursuit. Why do people continually try to figure out when Jesus is going to come again? They create these endless charts and mathematical calculations, tons of time and effort all for naught.

The whole reason why God does not set dates is; *this defeats the whole purpose for the work of the Watchman*. If you are waiting for a certain date on the calendar then *people will not live their life the way God wants you to. People will be more worried about a date than the way they would live their life!* If one was focused on date and knew exactly when Christ would come, one would come complacent and sin and do what he or she wanted because one knows the day or the hour. But God wants people to be diligent and ready. God want us to be “spiritually watchful” at all times to show him that we are willing and obedient for him always-in times of peace and in times of trouble. Jesus said that he would come in the hour “ye think not...” (Matthew 24:44). He also said “*Watch therefore: for ye know not* what hour your Lord doth come” (v.42).

Militia Groups

Many militia groups have sprung up in the USA and Canada. They hate the government, and society. They will defend themselves against any government action against them. What does the Bible say about these people, who *some* have a religious motive?

The Bible plainly says that we are to be LAW ABIDING CITIZENS!

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

“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” (1 Peter 2:13-14; see also Exodus 22:28; Ecclesiastes 10:20). We are also to pay taxes, see Matthew 22:17, 21. We must be subject to the higher powers that be.

These militia groups, as well as other groups in the world, like the Islamic militants who always rise up and want to declare an Islamic state, and cause havoc against the government and its citizens, are doing exactly what the Bible says *not to do*.

Also arming themselves to the teeth with weapons and *going on the offensive* is also condemned in the Bible, the Bible says “You shall not kill” (Exodus 20:13), “Do violence to no man” (Luke

Beware of False Prophets

3:14) “YHWH trieth the righteous: *but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth*” (Psalm 11:5).

God calls people who “despise governments” “ungodly” (2 Peter 2:9-10). We are not to overthrow governments, but the Christian like the prophets of Old are to show the government what their sins are, that God is displeased with them and tell them to repent and tell those in charge to reform the government.

“House to House”

Now many know that Jehovah’s Witnesses go door to door trying to win converts to their faith. But is this in the Bible? Certainly the Bible says: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

“And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

“And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and ***breaking bread from house to house***, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,” (Acts 2:44-46).

And, “Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

“And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from ***house to house***,” (Acts 20:19-20). The Bible plainly shows that the disciples went from house to house preaching God’s word.

But Jesus also said, “**Go not** from house to house” (Luke 10:7)? How do we reconcile this statement in the Great Commission with the other scriptures that say that the disciples went from “house to house”? Did the disciples disobey Jesus? Absolutely not! The answer is simple. *The context of these verses must be considered!*

When the disciples were going house to house, they were going to people who were ***believers, or to people who wanted to hear the message***. When Jesus told them *not* to go from house to house, he meant to **unbelievers**, and to stay with people who will “receive you” (Luke 10:8). So what the Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Mormons as well-what they are doing are directly disobeying Christ, going to the houses of unbelievers.

Other Books?

There are many religions which introduce another book that they claim is an ADDITION TO, or are another REVELATION from God. The Mormons claim that their book, the Book of Mormon, is another testament of Jesus Christ. The Muslims claim that their Koran is the official bible of God and not the Old and New Testaments (*see Plain Truth About Islam for the truth about this religion and others on our website*). Many other religions claim that their books are from God or are an addition to the Bible. Are these claims true? Or is the Bible, the Old and New Testaments, the only true word of God?

Beware of False Prophets

First, I challenge anyone with an open mind to read other books like the Koran, and the book of Mormon, and you will find nothing but contradictions and errors.

Second, what does the Bible say? There is an interesting prophecy given by Isaiah about this subject and it says this: “Sanctify the YHWH of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

“And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

“And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

“Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples” (Isaiah 8:13-16).

Now who is the “rock of offense”? Jesus Christ, see 2 Peter 2:5-8; Romans 9:33. So this is an obvious prophecy about Christ.

Then Isaiah wrote: *“Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.”* Whose disciples? If this is a prophecy about Christ, then it’s Jesus disciples of course! This means that after the disciples of Jesus, there is NO MORE BIBLE, IT SEALED! The testimony of Jesus is bound up. The book of Revelation testifies to this and the mark of the true church, “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, *which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*” (Rev 12:17; 14:12). The law and the testimony are seal up and bound there is no more revelation from God. The church of God has the Bible and all the prophecies and scriptures that we need are sealed up in the Bible, and there is no need for more scripture.

This prophecy in Isaiah is for the future: “Behold, I and the children whom YHWH hath given me are *for signs and for wonders in Israel* from YHWH of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion” (V.18). Isaiah and his disciples were examples of future events that were to come.

In the New Testament, it says that Jesus is the “author and *finisher* of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2).

Jude writes “The faith which was *once for all* delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3 NKJV) So the Bible is complete from Genesis to Revelation!

Mark of a True Prophet

How can you know a true prophet of God?

In the book of Jeremiah we find the mark of a true prophet: “*I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.*

“But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

“Am I a God at hand, saith YHWH, and not a God afar off?” (Jer 23:21-23). True prophets preach and teach repentance to God’s people and observance to God’s law. This is the fruit of a true prophet.

Beware of False Prophets

The people in God's church are converted believers and keep the laws of God: "And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which *believe; and they are all zealous of the law:*" (Acts 21:20). Once these people repented, they were zealous to keep the law of God; the apostles were called of God and were true prophets and servants of God, **it showed in their ministry.**

Mainstream churches however teach that God's law is done away which is the mark of a false prophet.

Jeremiah writes: "Behold, *I am against the prophets*, saith YHWH, that use their tongues, and say, He saith.

"Behold, I am against them that *prophesy false dreams*, saith YHWH, and *do tell them*, and *cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all*, saith YHWH" (Jer 23:31-32).

Today they preach Grace, Grace, and you don't have to keep the law. Then why does God say: "Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

"Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

"And come and ***stand before me in this house***, which is called ***by my name***, and say, ***We are delivered to do all these abominations?***" (Jer 7:8-10). Will you commit all these sins then go to church and say its "Grace, Grace we are saved, we don't have to keep the law"? Absolutely Not!

Yes we are saved by Grace. But many do not understand that Grace IS God's law, "Br gracious to me through your law" (Psalm 119:29 NIV). This does not give you a license to sin. Paul writes: "Do we then make void the law through faith? **God forbid: yea, we establish the law...**" (Rom 3:31). Grace is God's law and we establish it not get rid of it.

He also says, "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? **God forbid**" (Romans 6:15). Sin is breaking the Law of God (1John 3:4). Should we break God's law because we are "not under the law" meaning the "law of sin"? Since we have repented and live in righteousness (under Grace) shall we go back to our former lives? (Under the law of sin) "God forbid"! (*For a full explanation of Romans 6 read our booklet The Saving Works of God*).

Paul says no! We must establish the law (Grace). Paul says "***That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us***, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom 8:4). The apostle Paul never said that we do not have to keep the law. We must *establish* the law in our lives!

Jude wrote against the *Grace and no law* concept: "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, *turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness*, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4). The word "*lasciviousness*," means "licentiousness" which means a "permission to sin." Many believed that since the sacrifice of Christ (which is in the law of God-God's grace) when one in the church sinned it was forgiven (see 1 John 1:7, 9; 2:1-2), that people assumed it was fine then to sin, because all one had to do was ask and it was forgiven. Problem is that is not a repentant

Beware of False Prophets

attitude! We are to “repent” meaning to stop sinning and walk God’s way, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10).

Read the following quotes from the apostles themselves and see whether they thought the law of God was done away.

“Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God” (1Corth 7:19).

“But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets” (Acts 24:14).

“Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good....I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin” (Rom 7:12, 25).

“But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” (James 1:25).

“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

“But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

“For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law” (James 2:8-11).

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3-4).

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:2-3).

“And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it” (2 John 1:6).

“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God” (Heb 4:9) The Greek word for “rest” is “Sabbatismos” meaning literally a “keeping of the Sabbath.”

“For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: *therefore love is the fulfilling of the law*” (Rom 13:9-10).

Beware of False Prophets

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a *new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah*:

“Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

“For this is the ***covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts***: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.” (Heb 8:8-10). Anyone that teaches that the law is done away is a “liar and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3-4).

Christian “false” Prophets

Jesus said there would be false Christian ministers that would come, who were not called or chosen of God and that Jesus never “knew” them. How do we “know” God? By keeping his commandments (1 John 2:3)

Jesus warned, “Take heed that no man deceive you.

“For many shall come ***in my name***, saying, I am Christ [that Jesus is the Messiah]; and shall *deceive* many.” (Matthew 24:4-5). The “many” means the “majority.” The majority of so-called “Christendom” would be deceived.

Paul said that Satan has “ministers” that would parade around as God’s ministers, preaching “another Jesus” and “another Gospel” (2 Corinth 11:4). These would also claim to be the “chiefest apostles” (v.5). He goes on to write, “For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

“Therefore *it is* no great thing if *his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness*; whose end shall be according to their works.” (vv.13-15). Their end will be according to what they preach. If they preach not to obey the Law of God, then the wages of sin is death.

What about the “chief Apostles” of some of these churches teaching to worship men instead of God what of their punishment if not repented of?

Christian in name only

Jesus said, “many” would come “in his name” Christian in name but not in deed, deceiving people. And what is that deception? Notice what Jesus said, “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves.

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

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

“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

“*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*”

Beware of False Prophets

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not *prophesied in thy name?* and *in thy name have cast out devils?* and *in thy name done many wonderful works?*”

“And then will I profess unto them, *I never knew you:* depart from me, ye that work *iniquity.*” (Matthew 7:15-23). They do all these things in the name of Jesus, yet Jesus never knew them because they work “iniquity,” teaching “no law.” This is the same message as Deuteronomy, doing miracles, and then teaching people not to keep the law of God which is sin, this is the deception. Don’t follow God’s ways, but the false prophet’s ways, their ways. They want to control your thoughts and actions and to subject to them, and not to God. Power, money and control are what they want. It’s the same spirit that drove Hitler, Stalin, Muhammad & others.

One can know who has a true or false ministry; it is “by their fruits.” Either they produce the “fruits of righteousness” or they do not. Righteousness is God’s law (Psalm 119:172), this must show in their ministry.

Credentials

Have you noticed that the ministry is the only profession where a man or woman can claim great things for themselves, divine titles with absolutely no credentials whatsoever? This practice is not done in business, or in the medical industry. If you claim you have a degree in whatever field one must back up this claim with the right credentials. But not the ministry! Anyone can claim to be a prophet, pastor, priest or Apostle, or have great spiritual wisdom-but did *God call them?* Are they following the Bible?

The Israelites had the same problem in the days of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah etc... Many came in the name of Yahweh, yet their credentials did not add up to their claim, the great teacher, God even said so!

God told Ezekiel, “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy *out of their own hearts*, Hear ye the word of the LORD;” (13:2). Their prophecies were not backed by the spirit of God or the Bible, but out of their own hearts. God did not send them. *So their credentials did not match their claim of being a prophet.*

K&D Commentary says, “Ezekiel is not to direct his words against the prophets as a body, *but against those who follow the vocation of prophet in Israel without being called to it by God on receiving a divine revelation*, but simply prophesying out of their own heart, or according to their own subjective imagination” (emphasis added). They did not have the credentials for being a prophet of God. This is just a *self proclamation* like so many do today.

God told Ezekiel, “...Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their *own* spirit, and have seen nothing!” (v.3). God also says in Jeremiah, “For they prophesy falsely unto you *in my name:* I have *not* sent them, saith the LORD.” (29:9; Ezekiel 13:6). They come in God’s name, but God did *not* send them. There are many in the church of God today that claim this same office! Out of their own mind they feel God has called them to some special role in this end time of prophet, priest or chief Apostle. God says they are “foolish” and are following their own vain imaginations; something that they conjured up in their own heads. There are no more prophets, priests, or Apostles, your Bible says so!

Beware of False Prophets

God says, “For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that *be* in the midst of you, *deceive you*, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed... They have seen vanity and *lying* divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD *hath not sent them*: and they have made *others* to hope that they would confirm the word. “Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith *it*; albeit I have not spoken?

“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, *and seen lies*, therefore, behold, I *am* against you, saith the Lord GOD.” (Jer 29:8; Ezekiel 13:6-8). What is their motivation for all of this? Why do they “lie” and “deceive” people?

As noted, they are like wolves, and they want to devour people, control them and have power over their lives. It’s all about power and control, but also to be worshipped and have a following. God continues concerning these false prophets, “Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them,

“And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the *women* that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature *to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you?*

“And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, *to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live*, by your lying to my people that hear *your lies?*” (Ezekiel 13:17-19). People go to them for salvation; to be looked up to and followed-to stroke own ego and vanity. What else would drive a person to do this sort of thing?

Notice God says, “and they have made *others* to hope that they would confirm the word.” This means “rather, ‘they hoped’ to confirm (i.e. make good) ‘their word’ by the *event corresponding to their prophecy*. The Hebrew [*yich^aluw* (H3176)] requires this (Havernick). Also the parallel clause, ‘they have seen vanity,’ implies that they ‘*believed their own lie*’ (2Thess 2:11). Subjective revelation is false, unless it rests on the objective.” (JFB Commentary, emphasis added). Many of these false prophets look for events that correspond to their false prophecies (*one example was the year 2012, many tried to fit end time prophecies and the Mayan calendar to predict the end of the world*).

Many false teachers in the church of God are doing this today (*Continuing COG’s Bob Thiele being one*), and they actually believe their own lies. This is their “idea baby” that they have conceived in their own minds. They coddle it, feed it, bring it up, and it becomes absolute truth to them.

They all do this “in the name” of God and “pollute” God among Israel. These deceptions by the false prophets have made people think that God is a cruel oppressor of people, and not the merciful savior that he really is.

The Media has so tarnished the religion of Christianity because of these false leaders that the world has now painted every preacher with a broad brush, and everyone thinks that all preachers are out to get your money, and want some sort of cult following, so the genuine ministers are

Beware of False Prophets

lumped together with these false Apostles and prophets, and the world in general are turned off by religion altogether.

In the Church of God

The Apostle Paul and Jesus warned of these wolves. He also speaks of what drives these false prophets, Paul said, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

“For I know this, that after my *departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.*

“Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

“Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.” (Acts 20:28-31). Here Paul said that the motive is to “draw away” disciples, and have the church follow them. False prophets always want followers and their “perverse” doctrines are designed to control people’s lives and salvation. Paul said this would happen in the church of God, and it is happening today in the very church of God.

Many claim the office of Apostle, and Jesus warned of this in the book of Revelation. He said, “...and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:” (Rev 2:2). People were claiming to be “Apostles” and Jesus said they are “liars.” Many make this very claim today. But the age of the Apostles is over; there cannot be anymore Apostles or prophets. The Bible is sealed; there are no more prophecies to be given.

Today in the very church of God, many are claiming these very positions and it is up to the church members to test and try them who make these claims.

Test the Spirits

The Apostle John also wrote of this plague of false brethren in the church and said, “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1). How are we to put these people to the test? The Bible! Are what they claim, can it be substantiated in the Bible?

God said, “To the law and to the testimony: if they *speak not* according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.” (Isaiah 8:20).

The New Testament says, “...searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:11). Jesus told the Jews to “Search the scriptures” (John 5:39) to see whether he was telling them the truth. The Bible is the standard in which we must put all who make these claims to the test.

Beware of False Prophets

How to find the Church of God?

How do you know that you are attending a true church of God? Is it because the name on the top of the Building says that they are a church called the “Church of God?” No! The Bible gives us the answer!

As noted above, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”(Isaiah 8:20).

John writes the same thing: “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, *which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*” (Rev 12:17).

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that *keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus*” (Rev 14:12). This is the mark of God’s people, his church-they that are keeping the laws of God.

This is how God knows his people, by obedience to his will: “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3-4). This passage tells us that the ones that God knows are the ones that keep his law.

There are people out there that say that “know the Lord” but don’t keep his commandments. Those people are called “liars.” This is why Jesus said “I never knew you” (Matthew 7:23), because they were not keeping the Commandments of God.

The Bible says that those that belong to Christ have the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). The evidence of that is the keeping of the Commandments of God, “because the love of God [1 John 5:3 God’s law] is shed abroad in our hearts *by the Holy Ghost* which is given unto us” (Rom 5:5; 8:4). So spirit filled people, God’s people are keeping the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus, and this is where you find the true church.

False Prophets in the Kingdom of God

In the Kingdom of God, people who even *attempt* to falsely prophesy in the name of the Lord will themselves receive a harsh punishment from even their own family members. In that world there will be no room for false prophets! Individuals who have repented and who are fortunate enough to make the transition from this end-time age into the society of the kingdom will not even think of taken up the profession of false prophesying again, *after they see Jesus deal with the false prophet* (Rev 19:20). These will rather learn a new profession! Once they see the harsh punishment of false prophecy they will beg to be *farmers* and not prophets!

The Book of Zachariah reveals this prophecy, “In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.” (13:1). This

Beware of False Prophets

comparing scripture with Zechariah 12:10 and Revelation 1:7 proves this is the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Then it says, “And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, *that* I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: *and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.*” (v.2). the prophets and the unclean spirits are linked together because the lying spirit works in the false prophets (see 1Kings 22:19-23).

God himself, Jesus Christ will get rid of false prophets *if they do not repent*, as he does with the Idols, burning them in the lake of fire, and making it illegal according to the Law of God (Ex 23:13; Joshua 23:6-7). The effects of Idolatry, and the abominations that it causes-the spirit behind it, God will make this illegal in the Kingdom of God.

But in “spite of the removal of false prophets the possibility of their reemergence remains a threat” (F.F. Bruce The International Bible Commentary, p.985). Notice this shocking verse, “And it shall come to pass, *that* when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, *Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the LORD:* and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth” (v.3). The prophet describes the zeal against false prophecy, with reference to the law against those who seduced to apostasy from God (see Deut 13:6-10; 18:20).

The context here is, “The substantial truth expressed is, that false prophecy shall be utterly abolished. *If it were possible for it again to start up*, the very parents of the false prophet would not let parental affection interfere, but would be the first to thrust him through.” (JFB Commentary, emphasis added). The very thought of false prophets and prophesying will be in the Kingdom so utterly *disgusting* that parents would put their own child to death if he even thought of starting that kind of thing again.

One can understand why if one just looks into the world today and sees the effects of false prophets and religions. The death toll due to these false prophets; wars, sickness and disease because of people prophesying visions and dreams out of their own mind, and some doing it in the name of Jesus (the inquisition being one example). People in the Kingdom will understand and not tolerate that nonsense any longer.

Then the prophecy says, “And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the prophets shall be *ashamed* every one of his vision [in the past life], when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive [men of the cloth?]:

“But he shall say, *I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.*

“And *one* shall say unto him [The interrogator], *What are* these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, *Those* with which I was wounded *in* the house of my friends.” (vv.4-6). The understanding of the consequences of one sinning will be enforced in the kingdom that the false prophets will be so ashamed of what they did, when they receive their chance for salvation would rather farm and be a herdsman than be a prophet.

Beware of False Prophets

The church of God that is governing with Christ at that time will ask about his wounds, and “the reply indicates that the false prophet has in fact suffered at the hands of his parents [friends]” (ibid, p.985). Finding out what their son did in the past, that his own parents punished him for it so severely that it left scars on his body.

Righteousness will reign in the Kingdom. The evil that we tolerate today will not be tolerated in the kingdom of God, and Jesus will force this world to be happy, and false prophecy will be a thing of the past according to the *very law* that false Christian ministers preach against today!