

# PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: THE DANGER OF FALSE PROPHETS

Houses of Light Church • November 4-5, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

## 2 Pet. 2:1-3

***“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup> And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. <sup>3</sup> And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”***

### I. QUICK REVIEW

- A. In chapter one, Peter told us from **v.1-4** about everything that God gives us through the knowledge of God and Jesus, He has given us great promises to participate in the same divine nature. **(1:5-11)** Because of this potential, Peter calls for constant growth which confirms that we have been called. In **v.12-19** Peter concluded by talking about the certainty we have of the return of Jesus Christ not only because he was an eyewitness of the transfiguration of Jesus but because it was prophesied and the Scripture is completely reliable because it came by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit .
- B. When Peter says, ***“no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of self-interpretation,”*** he means, ***“no prophecy ever arose from a prophet’s personal interpretation of historical events.”*** Rather, as **v.21** says, the prophecies came from God through the Holy Spirit so we must ***“Pay attention to the prophetic words until the day of Christ.”***

### II. THE DANGER OF FALSE PROPHETS

- A. Once Peter spoke of the true prophets who brought words inspired by the Holy Spirit; In this section (chapter 2) he contrasts them with false prophets who are inspired not by God but by their own carnal desires and ambitions. Jesus warned us that this was going to happen in the end time.  
**Matt. 24:11 “And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.”**
- B. ***“But false prophets also arose among the people”*** The false prophets of the Old Testament were men motivated by the love of money (**v.2:3**) and by the desire to be applauded who told the people what they wanted to hear instead of what they needed to hear.
  - 1. In the days of King Jehoshaphat, Zedekiah, the false prophet, put on iron horns and said that Israel would gore the Syrians out of the way as he graphically did; Micah, the true prophet, predicted disaster if Jehoshaphat went to war. Of course Zedekiah the false prophet was popular and his message was accepted so Jehoshaphat went to war with the Syrians and died tragically (**1 Kings 22**). In the days of **Jeremiah**, Hananiah prophesied the sudden end of Babylon’s power, while Jeremiah prophesied that Israel would serve this nation; and again the prophet who told the people what they wanted to hear was the most popular (**Jer. 28**) while Jeremiah, who spoke the truth, was attacked and ignored and this led the people to disobey God and suffer the consequences.  
**Jer. 6:14 “They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace”**

- C. Something very similar to this can happen with our social networks; The companies' algorithms program the content that people can listen to so that they continue to be convinced of what they want to believe. This is something we must consider when exposed to so much information.
- D. Like many of the mass media, the false prophets were more interested in becoming popular than in telling the truth. Our nature wants to do things our way, we seek self-satisfaction and security on our own terms and that is what these false teachers teach.
- E. The false prophet is itself a seduction to evil rather than an inspiration to good and actually tests people's hearts: are you going to do what God says or follow your own ideas and desires. The false prophet was primarily a man who led people further and further away from God instead of bringing them closer to Him..  
**Jer. 23:14 and 31 "But in the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; they strengthen the hands of evildoers,... 32 lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness."**
- F. The phrase ***"they will secretly introduce destructive heresies"*** refers to a deliberate deviation from the truth. With the coming of Jesus came the truth of God to humanity and there are no longer options to believe what one wants to believe. A heretic, then, became a person who believed what he wanted to believe instead of accepting the truth of God that he should believe. Sometimes hearing the truth is painful but it is also medicine for the soul.  
**Pr. 27:5-6 "Better is open rebuke than hidden love. 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy."**
- G. What was happening in the case of Peter's readers was that some self-appointed prophets were persuading people to believe what they wanted to be true, rather than what God has revealed to be true. **And the most dangerous thing is that they did not present themselves as enemies of Christianity but as the best exponents of Christian thought;** and in a gradual and subtle way, they seduced people away from the truth of God and into believing their personal opinions.
- H. These people ***"denied the Lord who had bought them."*** This truth that Christ has purchased us for Himself extends throughout the New Testament.  
**1 Co 7:23 "You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men."**  
**Rev. 5:9 "And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."**
- I. This means that the Christian, because he has been purchased, belongs absolutely to Christ; and that a life that cost so much cannot be wasted on sin or worthless things. The heretics in Peter's letter were denying the Lord who had purchased them. **The idea is that these people were slaves to sin even though Jesus has purchased them for Himself at the price of His life, to set them free. This may mean that they were denying his authority, although at the same time they claimed to be wiser and more advanced than the others.**

### III. FOUR THINGS ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS AND THEIR TEACHING

- A. **The cause of false teaching was bad ambition.** Desiring to possess more is not a sin in itself; There are many cases in which it is a perfectly honorable desire, as in the case of virtue, knowledge, or rewards. **But this bad ambition comes from the desire to possess what one has no right to desire, much less to appropriate.** It may be a greedy desire for other people's money or things; the concupiscent desire of some person; the diabolical ambition for prestige and power. **False teaching comes from the desire to put one's own ideas in place of the truth of Jesus Christ.**
- B. **The method of false teaching.** It is cleverly using forged reasoning. Falsehood can be easily resisted when it is presented as false, but it is when it is disguised as truth that it becomes most dangerous. **The teaching of any teacher must stand: the test of the words and presence of Jesus Christ Himself manifested in the Scriptures.**
- C. **The effect of false doctrine.**
1. **He encouraged people to follow the path of shameless immorality.** The Greek word is *aselgeia*, which describes the attitude of the person who has completely lost shame and does not care about the judgment of either God or men. **Behind this false doctrine was the perversion of the Grace of God as justification, not of the sinner, but of sin itself.** The false teachers told people that grace is inexhaustible and, therefore, they were free to sin as much as they wanted because that is what Grace was for.
  2. **He discredited Christianity.** v.2 ***"Many will follow them in their shameful practices and because of them the way of truth will be defamed"*** In the early days, exactly as now, every Christian was a good or bad advertisement for Christianity and the Christian Church. Peter warns us that because of them there will be those who speak evil of the way of truth. There is already a historic attack against Christianity, but what aggravates the situation is the type of disciples that these false teachers produce.  
**Rom. 2:24 "For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."**  
**Tit. 2:4-5 " and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, s to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled."**
  3. **Any teaching that draws people away from Christianity rather than attracting them is a false doctrine and the work of the enemies of Christ.**
- D. **It leads to destruction.** Since the Old Testament God pronounced His condemnation against false prophets (**Deut 13:1-5**) and in our time it may seem that that sentence is no longer in force, but it is still valid and the day would come when false teachers would pay the terrible price. of its falsehood. **No one who leads others down the path of error will escape his own judgment.**  
**2 Pet. 2:10a "and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority..."**

- E. The dangerous thing about these false prophets and teachers is that ***"they will be among us"*** they are people who have deviated but are still in the church speaking ill of it, discrediting it and defaming it. The sad thing is that their deviation will cause their own destruction.
- F. Peter tells us that ***"many will follow them in their shameful practices."*** The question is why would anyone follow a false teacher or prophet? I believe because they appeal to our fallen nature and because we have allowed offense or accusation to enter our hearts. These two things are very dangerous especially in recent times.

**Isa. 8:15 *"And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken."***

**Matt. 24:10 *"And then many will fall away[a] and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray."***

- G. We must watch, pray, guard our hearts from offense and temptation as well as continue to grow in knowing the Word to discern all false messages and teachers to stay in the truth.

#### IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why are false prophets or teachers so dangerous?
2. What distinguishes false prophets or teachers?
3. How can you avoid being deceived by them?

#### THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The House of Prayer will remain closed this week. It will reopen next Monday, November 13.
2. Men's Retreat November 17-18 Please register at the outside table or at [www.housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org)
3. We invite you to our Thanksgiving service on Thursday, November 23 at 11:00 a.m. The children's ministry will be open.
4. For those who wish to be baptized, there will be a preparation class on Monday, November 27 at 7:00 PM in the Affirming Your Steps room. The Baptisms will take place during services on December 2 and 3. Please register at the table outside or at [www.housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org)