

False prophets

Work day child min next week after church, mens conference sign up aug 13-14

We have this week and 2 more weeks to look at modern heresies (jehovahs witnesses/mormons, exvan)
This week we are going to look at another heresy that is as old as they come – false prophets

I want to make a distinction between false teachers and false prophets....there is a difference

When talking about teachers, a false teacher teaches heresy, teaches things that lead us away from God

When we look at false prophets however, there are things we must be particularly concerned with

When we examine the ot we see prophets were used by God to declare his words to the people

God's people could not bear to hear the voice of God, so he instituted prophets who would speak to the people on his behalf (Hebrews 12:18-19) – the hearers begged that no further messages be spoken

And we want to begin there with that distinction, that we are going to look at prophets slightly different than teachers but both are dangerous

Prophets are individuals who actually claim to be speaking a word received directly from God

Who are some we look to in scripture

Moses – the first prophet

Isaiah – the bold prophet when no one else would

Jeremiah – the weeping prophet

Jonah- the reluctant prophet

Many others – and one of the things key in understanding these men is the reluctance in which they claimed to be a prophet

Their reluctance is in no doubt due to the warnings found in **Deuteronomy 18:20-22**

The claim to speaking on behalf of God is a fearful responsibility, one that is taken with much forethought and consideration

For many, nowadays, the tag of prophet is one in which many almost run to accept and desire

God takes seriously the use of his name, and anyone in the ot who spoke in his name and was proven to be false were stoned/shunned

And this is where we want to begin talking about "false" prophets....of which there are many we must know and understand.....what are modern examples?

Many years ago you remember a man named Harold Camping, who claimed the Lord would return in may of 2011.....when that day passed he immediately shifted his math to another day
This is what we mean when we look at false prophets....

Who are they ---- John Hagee has repeatedly claimed that Jesus never claimed to be the Messiah, he makes vague prophecies based blood moons, stars, and more.....but the key here is vague....
Jerry Falwell, John Hagee and others claimed that Y2K would be a national crisis that would usher in the return of christ
Pat Robertson claimed the world would end in 1982, and again in 2007

and lets just bring up another one that we have to be concerned about....the line of pastors and prophets who predicted that God spoke to them concerning the outcomes of elections....

Khris Vallotton of Bethel church in redding (NAR) , Greg Locke, Kenneth Copeland.....all claimed to know who would win an election.....

I know I am delving into an area that many still have strong feelings about....but can you just take a moment and hear something....

When anyone claims to speak on behalf of God, we must inspect their fruit....

The claim to speaking on behalf of God is a responsibility that is both daunting and heavy....

and anyone who speaks on behalf of God and is proven wrong should be shunned.....

instead, what we often do is hear a changed story, or a caveat that God changed his mind

so what is prophecy, and how are we supposed to approach that subject in this day and time

when we look at the nt we see that something changed in regards to prophecy....we see this change occur in **Hebrews 1:1**

what we can glean from this is that God now speaks to us through his son.....which leads us to know that scripture tells us all we need to know about God and salvation

scripture is the fulfillment of the gospel, it tells us of the need for a messiah, that he would come, that he did come, that he would suffer and die, that he would carry away the sin of man on the cross

what Hebrews 1:1 ultimately tells us is that when Christ fulfilled his death on the cross, the gift of prophecy became the declaration of God's word

prophets of old spoke on behalf of God and it was received audibly.....now, prophets speak on behalf of God through the teaching and understanding of scripture....**2 timothy 2:15**

the damaging effects of speaking on behalf of God are still similar.....to wrongly handle the word of God has devastating effects.....why?

because of the way the gospel is seen and received by a lost world....

When a prophet/pastor/teacher speaks on behalf of God and makes claims that are found nowhere in scripture, and those claims are proven to be false....we should run

How do you spot dependable prophecy.....3 questions.....

1. Is it bathed in scripture **2 timothy 3:16**
2. Is it specific and clear. **John 16:13** and **1 Corinthians 14:31-33**
3. Does it proclaim the gospel. **1 John 1:3**
4. It brings correction to the life of the believer. **Hebrews 4:12**

How does God speak to us...

1. Through the reading of scripture. **2 Peter 1:20** – know that no prophecy of scripture comes from someones own interpretation
2. Conviction and urgings of the Holy Spirit. **John 14:26** – but the helper, the holy spirit whom the father will send in my name will teach you

Lets wrap up

God has always spoken with man and desired to be in a relationship with Him

He walked with adam in the garden, he called Moses from a burning bush, he anointed the lips of Isaiah

But the greatest act of the gospel that speaks to us most clearly about God and his desire to be in relationship with us occurred when Christ lowered himself and became one of us

He suffered as we suffer....maybe this morning, you are suffering.....suffering with sin, suffering with sickness, suffering in your struggle against the world....

There is a savior who knows....and desires to display his love to you, God forgives, God heals, and God restores....

I invite you this morning to trust christ as savior and Lord.....