

False Prophets of the Bible

Series 1-25

By Paul Tackett

VerseQuest Ministries

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

Series Introduction

False prophets. You can't flip twenty pages in your Bible without tripping over one. From Genesis to Revelation, from the serpent's hiss in Eden to the smoke-choked stage of Armageddon, the Bible is a battlefield littered with religious con men, doctrinal frauds, miracle-mongers, and self-appointed preachers of lies. And if you think that's ancient history, you haven't looked at your news feed lately.

This series is about pulling the masks off. It's about taking a hard, unflinching look at the devil's mouthpieces in Scripture and showing how their bloodline runs unbroken all the way into the present day. The Bible doesn't treat false prophets like misguided souls or "differing perspectives." It calls them brute beasts, dogs returning to vomit, clouds without water, and wells of deception. And the Lord doesn't dialogue with them—He damns them.

Why does this matter? Because deception is not a side issue. It's the issue. The very first sin came through a false prophet—the serpent twisting God's words (Gen. 3). Israel's history is scarred by them: Balaam selling prophecy for profit, Zedekiah waving iron horns, Jezebel's horde screaming on Mount Carmel, Hananiah breaking yokes to promise false peace. The prophets wept over them. The apostles warned about them. And Jesus Himself said many would come in His name, deceiving many (Matt. 24:5).

This isn't just a historical tour—it's a survival manual. The Spirit spoke expressly that in the latter times, many would depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils (1 Tim. 4:1). Brother, we're there. Churches packed but Bible-starved. Seminaries full of degrees but empty of doctrine. Preachers promising liberty while chained to corruption. From prosperity televangelists to ecumenical bishops to "Christian" influencers chasing followers instead of truth—the parade of false prophets is alive and well.

So here's what this series will do:

- We're going to march from Eden to Armageddon, one essay at a time, spotlighting twenty-five key case studies in false prophecy.
- We'll see their tactics: flattery, spectacle, money, perversion, counterfeit miracles, and smooth words.
- We'll hear their messages: "Yea, hath God said?" ... "Peace, peace" ... "The resurrection is past already" ... "Worship the Beast."
- And we'll watch their ends: swallowed by the earth, slain by the sword, burned in fire, cast alive into the lake of fire.

Every essay will hold Scripture in one hand and a magnifying glass in the other. We'll trace the continuity of deception through the whole Book, showing that the devil's prophets may change names and outfits, but they're all cut from the same rotten cloth.

And let's be plain—this isn't just academic. It's a call to arms. False prophets overthrow faith. They devour sheep. They mock holiness. They damn souls. And if you don't learn how to spot them, you'll end up following them.

That's why this series matters. Because the stakes aren't pew preferences or denominational quirks—they're heaven or hell. Eternity rests on whether you listen to the serpent or the Savior, the lamb-lookalike or the Lamb of God.

So buckle up. It's going to be a rough ride—sharp sarcasm, heavy Scripture, and zero tolerance for religious frauds. But by the time you finish, you'll see the whole arc: from Eden's lie to Armageddon's lake of fire, the doom of every false prophet is sealed.

Because the good news is this: though false prophets multiply, the Word of God stands sure. Though wolves devour, the Shepherd keeps His sheep. Though the False Prophet burns the world with lies, Christ returns with truth. And when the smoke clears, every fraud is ash, every deception is judged, and the Lamb reigns forever.

That's why this series exists. Not to impress, but to expose. Not to tickle ears, but to sharpen discernment. Not to flatter men, but to glorify Christ.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

1 of 25: The First False Prophet – The Serpent in Eden (Genesis 3)

Introduction – The Root of Every False Prophet

When people think of a prophet, they think of someone standing between God and man, opening his mouth and declaring, *“Thus saith the LORD.”* But the first “prophet” to open his mouth in Scripture didn’t come with a word from God—he came with a lie against God. He wasn’t dressed in a robe with a scroll in his hand; he was slithering in the grass with venom on his tongue. Genesis 3 introduces us to the first false prophet in history: the serpent. And every religious fraud, every slick-tongued preacher, every smooth-talking priest, every prosperity huckster, every cult leader, every lying pope, every TV evangelist with a smile wider than his Bible is just an echo of the voice we hear in Eden.

Understand this: before Balaam ever opened his mouth, before Hananiah ever broke Jeremiah’s yoke, before Zedekiah ever waved his iron horns, before the Pharisees ever buttoned their robes, the serpent had already written the script. He is the original. He’s the mold from which every false prophet is cast. That’s why Jesus said in John 8:44, *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning... for he is a liar, and the father of it.”*

The devil isn’t just the father of lies; he’s the father of false prophets. He was the first to twist God’s Word, the first to sugarcoat rebellion, the first to question God’s motives, the first to promise blessings where God promised death. And brother, if you want to understand false prophets today—from the Vatican to the megachurch to the street corner cult—you’ve got to start in Eden. That’s the devil’s seminary. That’s where the first “ordination service” of a false prophet took place, and the serpent walked out with his diploma in deception.

The Approach – Subtlety in the Garden

Genesis 3:1 says, *“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.”* Don’t miss that word: subtil. Not strong. Not mighty. Not brilliant. Subtil. The devil doesn’t need raw power when a whisper will do. He doesn’t need a sledgehammer when a suggestion will work. That’s how he operates.

Notice what he doesn’t do. He doesn’t march into the garden with fire and smoke. He doesn’t boom like thunder, *“I AM HERE TO DESTROY YOU!”* He doesn’t come with fangs bared and claws out. He comes in quietly. Softly. Just a voice in the ear. That’s false prophet territory right there. They don’t announce themselves with a neon sign: *“I am a liar!”* They come with a smile, a Bible under their arm, maybe a little clerical collar or a smooth stage presence. They’re polite. They’re charming. They’re funny. They’re “relatable.”

The Bible doesn’t say the serpent was ugly. It doesn’t say Eve ran away screaming when she saw him. It says he was subtil. That’s why Paul warns in 2 Corinthians 11:3, *“But I fear, lest*

by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” Same trick, different garden.

The First Question – “Yea, Hath God Said?”

Here comes the serpent’s opening line: “*Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*” (Gen. 3:1). There it is. The very first words of the very first false prophet in the Bible. Not a declaration. Not an outright denial. A question. “Did God really say that? Are you sure? Let’s double-check.”

Mark it down: the devil’s first move is always to cast doubt on God’s Word. He doesn’t come out with a blatant “God is wrong.” He starts with a sly, “Are you sure that’s what God said?” And brother, that’s been the false prophet’s opening line ever since.

The Jehovah’s Witness at your door—“Did God really say Jesus is God?” The Mormon missionary on his bike—“Did God really say the Bible is complete?” The Roman Catholic priest—“Did God really say faith alone saves?” The modern “Christian” scholar—“Did God really say those verses belong in the Bible?” Same voice. Same question. Same serpent.

You see, the devil knows if he can get you to doubt the Book, the battle’s already half over. Once the authority of Scripture is questioned, you’re at the mercy of the loudest voice in the room, and the false prophet is more than happy to step in and take the microphone. That’s why modern Christianity is neck-deep in apostasy: they traded “*Thus saith the LORD*” for “*Yea, hath God said?*”

The Lie – “Ye Shall Not Surely Die”

The serpent doesn’t stop at questioning God’s Word. He moves to flat-out contradiction: “*Ye shall not surely die.*” (Gen. 3:4). There it is—the first false prophecy. God said, “*Thou shalt surely die.*” The serpent said, “*Ye shall not surely die.*” Somebody’s lying. And it sure wasn’t God.

Notice the serpent didn’t deny God outright in the beginning. He waited until Eve was engaged in the conversation. Once he had her talking, once he had her attention, then he pulled the trigger. That’s another hallmark of false prophets. They’ll start soft. They’ll start gentle. They’ll butter you up, make you comfortable, get you to let your guard down. And then, when the time is right, they’ll drop the heresy.

“Ye shall not surely die.” That’s the heart of every false religion on the planet. Universalism? “No hell, everyone makes it.” That’s “Ye shall not surely die.” Catholic purgatory? “You might get singed, but eventually you’ll make it out.” That’s “Ye shall not surely die.” Prosperity preachers? “God isn’t mad at you, He just wants to bless you.” That’s “Ye shall not surely die.” Atheists? “There’s no judgment after death.” That’s “Ye shall not surely die.”

Every false prophet, every false teacher, every cult leader is just parroting the first lie ever told.

And notice the subtlety again. He didn't say, "There's no God." He didn't say, "There's no judgment." He just added one little word: not. That's all it took. One syllable to turn the truth into a lie. That's why you'd better hang on every word in that Book, because one word can make the difference between life and death.

The False Promise – “Ye Shall Be as Gods”

Now the serpent sweetens the deal: *“For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”* (Gen. 3:5).

There it is: the first prosperity gospel. The first New Age seminar. The first humanist manifesto. The first Mormon doctrine. The first Gnostic heresy. The first satanic sales pitch.

“You can be like God.” That's what every false prophet has promised since Eden. Don't miss it—he didn't promise death. He didn't promise damnation. He promised *enlightenment*. He promised *knowledge*. He promised *godhood*. Sound familiar? That's half the universities in America. That's every New Age bookstore. That's every cult that ever rose and fell. The serpent sold Eve on the idea that she didn't need to submit to God; she could be her own god.

And folks are still buying it by the millions. Some wear suits and ties and call it “self-realization.” Some wear robes and beads and call it “Eastern mysticism.” Some wear cassocks and miters and call it “sacraments.” Some wear skinny jeans and headset mics and call it “Christianity without judgment.” But it's all the same pitch: “You can be your own authority. You can chart your own way. You can be your own god.”

The Pattern of the First False Prophet

Right there in Genesis 3 you've got the blueprint for every false prophet that's ever lived:

1. **Question God's Word** – “Yea, hath God said?”
2. **Contradict God's Word** – “Ye shall not surely die.”
3. **Offer a counterfeit blessing** – “Ye shall be as gods.”

That's it. Every false prophet runs that script. Doesn't matter if he's standing in a pulpit or sitting on a throne in Rome. Doesn't matter if he's writing theology books or selling prosperity DVDs. Doesn't matter if he's promising reincarnation in India, paradise in Islam, nirvana in Buddhism, or prosperity in Houston—it's all Genesis 3 with a fresh coat of paint.

The Aftermath – The False Prophet Exposed

The serpent had his moment. He whispered. He lied. He promised. Eve bought it. Adam followed her. And just like that, sin stormed the world through one bite of fruit. Now what?

The devil promised enlightenment, but what did they get? Shame. Nakedness. Guilt. Fear. Hiding in the bushes. That's the track record of every false prophet. They promise light and deliver darkness. They promise freedom and deliver chains. They promise life and deliver death.

And don't miss this: the false prophet never sticks around to deal with the consequences. Where's the serpent when Adam and Eve are sewing fig leaves together? Where's the serpent when God's voice comes walking through the garden in judgment? Nowhere to be found. That's false prophet behavior. They'll stand behind their pulpits and make you promises, but when your marriage falls apart, when your kids run off, when your life is a wreck from following their lies, you won't find them. They'll be cashing your check, flying first class to their next conference, or hiding behind their lawyers.

God showed up and exposed the whole charade. He cursed the serpent, cursed the ground, cursed the man, cursed the woman. The false prophet was unmasked for what he was: a liar, a murderer, a destroyer. And mark it down—every false prophet in history will meet the same end. Revelation 20 says the devil and the false prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire, and every preacher who sold his soul to echo the serpent's lies will go down with him. That's the endgame.

Echoes of Eden – False Prophets Throughout Scripture

You can trace the serpent's lie like a dirty river running through the Bible. Every false prophet is just repeating Eden's sermon.

- **Balaam** sold his gift for cash, flattering Israel's enemies for a payday. That's "Ye shall not surely die" with a dollar sign attached.
- **Hananiah** broke Jeremiah's yoke and promised peace when God had decreed judgment. That's "Yea, hath God said?" with political polish.
- **Zedekiah and the 400 prophets** whipped Ahab into a frenzy with props and theatrics. That's "Ye shall be as gods" in pep rally form.
- **The Pharisees** tied up heavy burdens, made long prayers, and devoured widows' houses. That's "Ye shall not surely die" as long as you follow our rituals.

- **Elymas the sorcerer** in Acts 13 opposed Paul with trickery. That's the serpent, straight out of Eden, trying to block the gospel.
- **The False Prophet of Revelation** will stand on the world stage, calling fire from heaven, deceiving nations, and pointing men to worship the Beast. That's Genesis 3 in full bloom.

See the thread? It starts with a whisper in a garden and ends with a global system under the Antichrist. From Eden to Armageddon, the serpent's sermon never changes.

Echoes Today – The Modern Serpent's Gospel

Now don't just leave it in Bible history. Look around you. The serpent hasn't stopped preaching, and he's got more pulpits than ever.

"Yea, hath God said?" — That's the modern seminaries. Professors with PhDs who can't find Genesis 1 in a haystack questioning every word of the Bible. "The manuscripts say... the scholars suggest... the original Greek should be translated..." Same old question.

"Ye shall not surely die." — That's the universalists, the Unitarians, the ecumenical councils, the prosperity preachers, the Joel Osteens, the T.D. Jakes, the Pope in Rome. All telling you hell isn't real, judgment isn't certain, God isn't angry with sin. "Peace, peace, when there is no peace."

"Ye shall be as gods." — That's Oprah's gospel. That's yoga spirituality. That's the Word-Faith movement telling you to "speak your reality into existence." That's Mormonism promising you your own planet. That's every motivational preacher telling you "discover the champion in you." Same lie, new packaging.

Don't think for a second the serpent is gone. He's in the pulpits, the podcasts, the Christian bookstores, the worship concerts, the Vatican, the United Nations. The false prophet never retired; he just got more creative.

The Counter to the Lie – The Gospel of Christ

So what's the antidote? What silences the first false prophet and every echo that's followed? The cross of Christ.

The serpent said, "Yea, hath God said?" Jesus said, "*It is written.*" (Matt. 4). Every temptation, every lie, every twisting of Scripture was met with the Book. You can't outwit

the serpent with philosophy. You can't silence him with tradition. You can't fight him with psychology. The only weapon that works is the Sword of the Spirit.

The serpent said, "Ye shall not surely die." Jesus said, "*I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*" (John 11:25). Death is real, judgment is real, but salvation is just as real. The serpent lied; Christ told the truth.

The serpent said, "Ye shall be as gods." Paul said, "*There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all.*" (1 Tim. 2:5-6). You don't climb your way to godhood; you fall on your face before the one true God and receive mercy through His Son. That's the only path.

The serpent's gospel is self-exaltation. The true gospel is self-denial and Christ-exaltation. The serpent promised life without death. The gospel offers life through death—the death of Jesus Christ on your behalf.

The Call – Choose Your Prophet

Let's wrap this up plain. From Eden to today, you've only got two voices you can follow. The serpent, the first false prophet, still whispering his three-point sermon:

1. Doubt the Word.
2. Deny the judgment.
3. Deify yourself.

Or the Lord Jesus Christ, the true Prophet, Priest, and King, who preaches the gospel of His death, burial, and resurrection for sinners.

Every pulpit, every church, every sermon, every doctrine you encounter will line up under one of those banners. Don't kid yourself into thinking there's a neutral option. If it isn't "Thus saith the LORD," it's "Yea, hath God said?" If it isn't preaching repentance toward God and faith in Christ, it's preaching "Ye shall not surely die." If it isn't pointing men to bow before God, it's pointing men to become their own gods. There's no middle ground.

And let me tell you something, Christian: you'd better get comfortable being unpopular. Micaiah stood against 400. Jeremiah stood alone against his whole nation. Paul stood against philosophers, magicians, and Judaizers. And Jesus Christ Himself was crucified outside the gate. The serpent's prophets will always outnumber God's men. But the majority doesn't win in eternity. Truth does.

So what'll it be? Will you follow the serpent's whisper, or will you follow the voice of the Shepherd? Will you take the fruit, or will you take the cross? Will you believe the lie, or will you cling to the gospel?

Because make no mistake—the serpent's promise still kills, but the gospel still saves. And the day is coming when the serpent, the false prophet, and every lying tongue that ever echoed that first lie will burn forever in the lake of fire. And the redeemed, those who clung to the truth of Christ crucified and risen, will walk in the garden again—this time in a city with streets of gold, where no serpent will ever whisper again.

Final Word

The first false prophet was a serpent in a garden. The last false prophet will stand in Revelation as the right-hand man of the Antichrist. And in between, they fill the pages of history and the headlines of today. But the end of every false prophet is the same as the first one—judgment.

So hear it now: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." You can believe the serpent's sermon and reap his curse, or you can believe the gospel of Jesus Christ and inherit eternal life.

But you can't believe both.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

2 of 25: False Prophets in Egypt – Magicians Who Opposed Moses (Exodus 7–9)

Introduction – When Pharaoh Calls the Preachers

You want to see false prophets in their natural habitat? Look no further than Pharaoh's palace in the days of Moses. God's man walks in with a stick in his hand, a message in his mouth, and fire in his bones. His orders are simple: "*Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go.*" (Exodus 5:1). Pharaoh laughs, sneers, and calls in his backup—his "preachers," his court magicians, his religious professionals. Jannes and Jambres, though not named in Exodus, show up in Paul's commentary in 2 Timothy 3:8: "*Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.*"

There you have it—false prophets not out in the streets, not hiding in caves, but in the palace. They had the king’s favor, the king’s ear, and the king’s paycheck. They had the crowd, the prestige, the recognition. Moses had nothing but God’s Word. And that’s always the contest: the polished performers versus the lone man with the Book.

Exodus 7–9 paints the picture. Moses and Aaron throw down the rod; it becomes a serpent. Pharaoh snaps his fingers, and the magicians do the same. Moses strikes the river; it turns to blood. Pharaoh smirks, and the magicians imitate it. Frogs swarm the land; the magicians summon frogs, too. But the cracks start to show. By the time the lice hit, the magicians are waving the white flag: *“This is the finger of God.”* (Exodus 8:19).

That’s the false prophet’s arc every time: they strut, they boast, they imitate, and eventually they’re exposed as powerless frauds. From Egypt to Babylon, from Galilee to Rome, from the Vatican to the megachurch stage—it’s the same playbook.

So let’s tear it down piece by piece.

I. The Contest – Counterfeit Miracles (Exodus 7:10–12)

Moses walks into Pharaoh’s throne room with a shepherd’s rod. Not exactly intimidating. But when he throws it down and it becomes a serpent, the room gasps. Pharaoh doesn’t blink. He calls for the magicians, and lo and behold, they throw down their rods and they become serpents, too. You can almost hear the court erupt: “See? Our boys can do that trick, too!”

Here’s the lesson: don’t you dare think false prophets can’t produce miracles. They can. They do. They will. Just because something looks supernatural doesn’t mean it’s of God. Deuteronomy 13 warns about prophets who give signs and wonders but lead you away from God. Revelation 13 says the False Prophet will call fire down from heaven. Matthew 24:24 says false Christs and false prophets will show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, the very elect.

So don’t let your jaw drop when a televangelist lays hands and somebody falls over. Don’t lose your Bible over some glowing statue of Mary or a “miraculous healing” at a revival circus. False prophets have power. The magicians turned rods into serpents. The devil’s got tricks up his sleeve. The question isn’t “Is it supernatural?” The question is “Does it line up with God’s Word?”

And by the way, Aaron’s rod swallowed up their rods (Exodus 7:12). That’s the final word. The devil can imitate, but he can’t outlast. He can counterfeit, but he can’t conquer. Truth always devours lies in the end.

II. The Blood in the Nile – When the Magicians Make Things Worse (Exodus 7:20–22)

Next, Moses strikes the Nile, and the whole river turns to blood. The fish die, the stench rises, the Egyptians scramble for water. Pharaoh calls for his magicians again. And what do they do? They duplicate it. They take what little clean water remains and turn that into blood, too. Brilliant! That's false prophets for you. When judgment falls, they don't solve the problem—they make it worse.

You see the same thing today. When sin wrecks homes, false prophets don't preach repentance; they offer therapy. When judgment looms over a nation, they don't call for fasting and prayer; they call for more politics. When souls are perishing, they don't preach the gospel; they preach social justice, psychology, or prosperity. They don't clean the water—they bloody it even more.

That's the mark of a false prophet: he never points to the cure; he always deepens the curse.

III. The Frogs – Religion Loves Company (Exodus 8:1–7)

Moses stretches out his rod, and frogs swarm the land. They're in the houses, the beds, the ovens, the kneading troughs. The Egyptians are knee-deep in slime. Pharaoh calls the magicians. And guess what? They summon frogs, too. Congratulations, boys—you've doubled the plague!

That's false prophets again. They never alleviate suffering; they multiply it. They can't cast out devils, but they can sure invite more in. They can't heal sin, but they can make men twice the children of hell (Matthew 23:15). They can't deliver souls, but they can pack their churches with the lost.

Notice: the magicians could bring frogs, but they couldn't take them away. That's the false prophet's limitation. They can stir up emotions, whip up crowds, fake miracles—but they can't solve the sin problem. Only God can remove the frogs.

IV. The Lice – The Finger of God (Exodus 8:16–19)

Now it's Aaron's turn to strike the dust, and lice cover man and beast. Pharaoh looks to his magicians for a counterattack. They try. They fail. They come back sheepish and admit, *"This is the finger of God."*

That's the breaking point. Sooner or later, the false prophet has to confront the fact that he's out of his league. He can fake snakes, fake blood, fake frogs—but when God draws the line, he's finished.

False prophets today may fake tongues, fake healings, fake visions, fake prophecies. But when death comes knocking, when hell yawns open, when eternity stares them down—they've got nothing. They may swagger on stage, but in the cemetery they've got no answers. All they can do is shrug and say, "This is the finger of God."

V. The Theology of Pharaoh's Magicians

What do these Egyptian magicians teach us about false prophets?

1. **They Imitate God's Work.** They don't create; they counterfeit. They don't originate; they imitate. That's why modern false prophets are obsessed with Christian language, Christian symbols, Christian terminology. They'll talk about "Jesus," "grace," "faith," "spirit." But it's not the same Jesus, not the same grace, not the same Spirit.
2. **They Strengthen the Hands of the Wicked.** Pharaoh's heart was already hard, but the magicians made it harder. False prophets always comfort the sinner in his rebellion. They pat Pharaoh on the back and say, "Don't worry, you're just as powerful as God's prophet."
3. **They Collapse Under Pressure.** They can strut when it's frogs and blood, but when the lice show up, they fold. They're strong in the stadium, weak in the sickroom. Bold on TV, cowards at the graveside.
4. **They Confess Too Late.** Notice the magicians finally admit God's hand, but by then Pharaoh's hardened and the plagues are rolling. That's the tragedy. False prophets sometimes know the truth, but they admit it too late to do any good.

VI. Application – The Magicians of Our Day

Let's pull this out of ancient Egypt and park it right on Main Street 2025. Who are the magicians today?

- **The Prosperity Peddlers.** They imitate miracles, promise wealth, and leave people bankrupt.

- **The Charismatic Circus.** They fake healings, babble in tongues, and whip crowds into hysteria. Frogs everywhere, but no deliverance.
- **The Liberal Scholars.** They question the Word of God, rewrite the Bible, and bloody the water with their critical nonsense.
- **The Politician Preachers.** They hitch their wagons to Pharaoh, bless his sins, and harden the nation's heart against God.
- **The Ecumenical Leaders.** They try to match the signs and wonders of God's men, but all they do is lead Pharaoh deeper into rebellion.

Every one of them is a magician in Pharaoh's court—standing against Moses, propping up rebellion, imitating truth, multiplying plagues, and eventually admitting defeat.

VII. The Gospel Contrast

While the magicians were busy imitating, Moses was delivering. That's the difference. False prophets multiply frogs; God's prophet sets people free. False prophets bloody the water; God's prophet brings living water. False prophets shrug at death; God's prophet sprinkles the blood of the Lamb and the death angel passes over.

You want proof? Exodus ends with Israel free, Pharaoh drowned, and the magicians forgotten. Their names only show up again in 2 Timothy as a warning. But Moses is still read in synagogues today, still preached in churches, still a testimony to the power of God's Word.

And the gospel message is the same: Pharaoh's magicians can fake, but they can't save. Christ died, was buried, and rose again (1 Cor. 15:1-4). That's no trick. That's no imitation. That's the real thing. And when you believe it, you're set free from Egypt once and for all.

Conclusion – The Magicians Swallowed by the Rod

The last word is back in Exodus 7:12: Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. That's the picture. Truth always eats the lies. God's Word always devours the counterfeits. Christ's cross always towers above the devil's imitations.

So don't be impressed with the magicians. Don't be dazzled by their shows. Don't be taken in by their signs. Stick with the rod of God, the Book, the gospel. Because in the end, that's the only thing standing when the magicians crawl away, muttering about "the finger of God."

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

3 of 25: Balaam – The False Prophet for Hire (Numbers 22–24; 31:16)

Introduction – When Preachers Have a Price Tag

If the serpent in Eden was the first false prophet, and Pharaoh’s magicians were the polished imitators, then Balaam is the poster boy for the professional hireling. This man had the gift of prophecy. He could open his mouth and speak blessings or curses with authority. He could stand on a mountain, look down at Israel, and declare the oracles of God. And yet, the Bible brands him as a traitor, a sellout, and a stumbling block.

Why? Because Balaam had a price tag. He was a prophet for hire. A preacher with a fee schedule. A man who would bless or curse depending on the paycheck. He didn’t deny God. He didn’t stand up and shout blasphemies. He just loved “the wages of unrighteousness” (2 Peter 2:15). He wanted the money, the prestige, the honor. And when God blocked his path, he figured out a backdoor way to please the king and still cash in.

Brother, if that doesn’t sound like modern Christianity, you haven’t been paying attention. The pulpits of America are filled with Balaams—men with talent, with charisma, with the ability to move a crowd, but whose loyalty isn’t to God or His Word, but to their paycheck, their sponsors, their book deals, their donors. They’ll preach against sin until the board of deacons frowns. They’ll stand for truth until the big givers threaten to leave. They’ll ride the donkey until the angel of the LORD blocks the way.

Let’s walk through Balaam’s story and see why God uses him as a byword for every false prophet who ever turned the ministry into a money-making scheme.

I. The Summons of Balak – When Politicians Need Prophets

Numbers 22 opens with Balak, king of Moab, trembling in his boots. Israel has just steamrolled the Amorites, and now they’re camped on his border. He needs help. So what does he do? He calls for a preacher. Not an army, not a treaty, not a fortress—a preacher.

Balak sends messengers to Balaam with rewards of divination in their hands. He wants Balaam to curse Israel. Why? Because even pagans know that words have power. Even heathen kings know that spiritual authority trumps political authority. Pharaoh had his magicians; Balak wants his prophet.

Don’t miss that connection. Politicians love prophets for hire. From ancient kings to modern presidents, they’ve always had their court chaplains ready to bless their sin and sanctify their schemes. Ahab had Zedekiah. Jeroboam had his golden calf priests. Medieval

kings had their popes. American politicians have their photo-op pastors. Different names, same Balaam spirit.

II. The First Answer – Balaam Knows the Score

Balaam gets the message, and to his credit, he goes to God. The LORD says plainly: *“Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.”* (Num. 22:12). That’s it. Clear. Final. God said no.

Balaam reports back—half-heartedly. “Sorry, boys, the LORD won’t let me.” Notice the wording: not “I won’t do it,” but “God won’t let me.” He wanted to, but he couldn’t. Already the cracks are showing. A man who loved righteousness would have sent them packing and slammed the door. Balaam leaves it open.

Sure enough, Balak sends a bigger delegation with promises of greater honor. Balaam should’ve said, “Didn’t you hear me the first time? God said no.” But he invites them in, asks them to spend the night, and goes back to God as if maybe He’ll change His mind. That’s a prophet sniffing the paycheck.

III. The Donkey Sermon – God’s Sense of Humor

God lets Balaam go, but He’s angry. On the road, the angel of the LORD blocks the way. Balaam doesn’t see it, but his donkey does. The beast veers off, crushes Balaam’s foot, and finally sits down. Balaam beats her with his staff, and then God opens her mouth. Out comes the rebuke: *“What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?”* (Num. 22:28).

That’s one of the funniest and most humiliating scenes in Scripture. A prophet for hire, blinded by greed, arguing with his donkey—and losing. God literally had to put words in the mouth of a beast to show Balaam he was the real jackass.

And brother, that’s every money-loving preacher today. God will use rocks, birds, beasts, even lost sinners to expose their folly. Balaam’s donkey still brays in the pulpits when men preach for money instead of for truth.

IV. The Oracles of Balaam – True Words, False Heart

When Balaam finally meets Balak, he stands on the mountain and blesses Israel instead of cursing them. Balak throws a fit. Balaam shrugs: *“Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?”* (Num. 23:12).

Notice: Balaam’s mouth spoke truth. His prophecies about Israel were spot-on. He even predicted the coming of Christ: *“There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel.”* (Num. 24:17). Doctrinally sound. Spiritually accurate. So how can he still be a false prophet?

Because truth in the mouth means nothing if greed rules the heart. Balaam wasn’t loyal to God; he was loyal to the paycheck. He blessed Israel only because God forced him to. But once the pressure was off, he found another way to cash in.

That’s a vital warning. Don’t judge a preacher just because he says true things. Balaam said true things. Caiaphas prophesied correctly in John 11. Judas preached the kingdom. False prophets can speak true words while serving false motives. Look past the sermon to the heart.

V. Balaam’s Counsel – The Backdoor Betrayal

Here’s where Balaam shows his true colors. He couldn’t curse Israel directly, so he taught Balak how to corrupt them. Numbers 31:16: *“Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor.”*

What was the counsel? “If you can’t beat them, seduce them.” Get Israel to intermarry with Moabite women. Draw them into idolatry. Make them bow to Baal. God Himself will judge them. Balaam couldn’t curse Israel, but he could trick them into cursing themselves.

That’s the hireling spirit. If he can’t make money preaching against God’s people, he’ll make money corrupting them. That’s why Balaam is remembered as a villain throughout the Bible. Joshua 13:22 calls him “the soothsayer.” 2 Peter 2:15 says he loved the wages of unrighteousness. Jude 11 warns of “the error of Balaam for reward.” Revelation 2:14 condemns the doctrine of Balaam—teaching God’s people to sin for gain.

VI. The Death of Balaam – No Honor Among Hirelings

Numbers 31:8 gives the epitaph: *“Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.”* That’s it. The prophet who spoke of the Star out of Jacob, the man with visions from Almighty God, cut down with the enemies of Israel. No honor. No glory. No reward.

That's the end of every prophet for hire. You can make money for a while. You can draw crowds. You can win favor. But when the judgment falls, you'll be found standing with the enemies of God. Balaam died the death of the wicked because he lived the life of a hireling.

VII. The Spirit of Balaam Today

Now bring it forward. What does Balaam look like in 2025?

- **The Prosperity Preacher.** He blesses you if you bless his wallet. He sells miracles, healings, and “prophetic words” for a donation. That's Balaam on TV.
- **The Ecumenical Bishop.** He refuses to curse sin because he loves the honor of politicians and celebrities. He'll bless Israel if the cameras are on, but he'll bless Baal if the donors demand it. That's Balaam in the cathedral.
- **The Denominational Hireling.** He knows the Bible is true, but he won't preach it straight because it'll cost him his pension, his platform, his book sales. That's Balaam in the pulpit.
- **The Compromising Evangelical.** He won't curse the church, but he'll invite in the Moabite women—worldly music, worldly doctrine, worldly standards—until the people of God are defiled. That's Balaam in the conference.

Everywhere you look, Balaam is alive and well. The names change, but the spirit is the same: prophets for profit, preachers for paychecks, ministers for money.

VIII. The Contrast – Christ Versus Balaam

Line up Balaam next to Jesus Christ, and the contrast is night and day.

- Balaam loved the wages of unrighteousness. Jesus made Himself poor that we might be rich.
- Balaam sought honor from kings. Jesus was despised and rejected of men.
- Balaam tried to manipulate God's Word. Jesus was the Word made flesh.
- Balaam betrayed God's people for profit. Jesus laid down His life for His sheep.

You've got two prophets to follow: Balaam or Christ. One dies with the enemies of God; the other conquers death and reigns forever.

IX. The Final Word – Beware the Doctrine of Balaam

The Bible doesn't let Balaam fade into obscurity. His name shows up from Numbers to Revelation as a perpetual warning. Why? Because his spirit never dies. As long as men preach for money, as long as truth can be sold for profit, as long as pulpits are filled with hirelings, Balaam lives.

Revelation 2:14 warns the church at Pergamos: *“Thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.”* That's not just history; that's prophecy. The doctrine of Balaam runs right into the last days.

So here's the call: Don't buy into it. Don't follow prophets for hire. Don't measure a preacher by his success, his salary, his sales, his sponsors. Measure him by his faithfulness to the Book. If he trims the message for money, he's a Balaam. If he blesses sin for honor, he's a Balaam. If he opens the backdoor to idolatry, he's a Balaam. And his end will be Balaam's end—the sword of judgment.

Conclusion – No Price Tags on Truth

Balaam's story is tragic because it shows just how close a man can get to truth and still be lost. He heard God's voice. He saw visions of the Almighty. He spoke prophecies about Christ Himself. But he sold out for a paycheck.

And brother, the world is full of men just like him. They may wear robes, suits, or skinny jeans, but if they've got a price tag, they're Balaam's disciples. And when the sword falls, they'll die with the enemies of God.

So the choice is yours. Follow Balaam, the prophet for hire, or follow Christ, the Prophet who gave Himself for free. One ends in the wages of unrighteousness; the other ends in eternal life.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

4 of 25: Korah's Rebellion – False Prophets of Self-Appointed Authority (Numbers 16)

Introduction – The Devil's Favorite Pulpit

Some men lie for money like Balaam. Some lie for prestige like Pharaoh's magicians. Some whisper like the serpent in Eden. And some just can't stand that God didn't give them the spotlight. That's Korah—Mr. Self-Appointed Prophet, the man who thought leadership was his birthright, not God's choice.

Numbers 16 records one of the ugliest mutinies in Israel's history. Korah, a Levite, wasn't satisfied with his God-given role. He wanted Moses' position. He wanted Aaron's authority. So he gathered a mob, puffed them up with talk of "equality" and "holiness," and marched right up to God's appointed leaders with accusations. It was rebellion in the name of religion, mutiny dressed up as spirituality.

And don't miss it—Korah wasn't an outsider. He wasn't a pagan king or a Moabite priest. He was a Levite. A man who carried the holy things of God. That's the sting: the most dangerous false prophets often rise from within the congregation. They wear the garments of ministry. They know the language. They've carried the ark, sung the hymns, led the prayers. But deep down, they're itching for power that God never gave them.

Korah is the archetype of every false prophet who sets himself up without God's call. He represents the spirit of self-appointment, the arrogance of men who say, *"I deserve to lead because I want to lead."* And his end—swallowed alive by the earth—is a warning that still echoes for every pulpit-chaser who crowns himself prophet, bishop, apostle, or pope.

Let's dissect the anatomy of Korah's rebellion.

I. The Background – A Levite With a Chip on His Shoulder

Korah was a son of Kohath, a Levite. The Kohathites had a holy task: carrying the sacred furniture of the tabernacle—the ark, the table, the candlestick, the altars. That was no small job. It was a privilege. But Korah wasn't satisfied. He wanted more.

That's the seed of every false prophet: discontent with God's assignment. Instead of humbly fulfilling the role God gave, they lust after roles God reserved for others. They aren't content being doorkeepers in the house of the Lord. They want the throne. They aren't content teaching faithfully in obscurity. They want the platform.

Jude 11 ties Korah to Balaam and Cain: *"Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."* Cain worshiped his own way. Balaam preached for money. Korah rebelled against authority. Together, they represent the threefold cord of apostasy: false worship, false motives, false authority.

II. The Accusation – “Ye Take Too Much Upon You”

Korah and his 250 princes confront Moses and Aaron with this gem: *“Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them.”* (Num. 16:3).

That’s classic false prophet rhetoric. He doesn’t outright deny God. He doesn’t call Moses a liar. He cloaks his rebellion in pious language. “We’re all holy. We’re all equal. Who are you to exalt yourselves?”

Sound familiar? That’s the cry of every democratized religion, every ecumenical movement, every self-appointed pastor who rejects God’s call system. “We’re all priests, so why should we submit to any authority? We’re all children of God, so why should doctrine divide us? We’re all holy, so who are you to tell me I’m wrong?”

It sounds spiritual, but it reeks of rebellion. Yes, the whole congregation was holy—set apart by God’s covenant. But God had still appointed Moses as leader and Aaron as high priest. Holiness doesn’t erase order. Equality before God doesn’t cancel divine authority. But Korah twisted truth into a weapon for mutiny.

That’s what false prophets do. They grab a Bible verse, rip it out of context, and use it to justify their lust for power. “Judge not.” “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” “We’re all one in Christ.” They wave their proof-texts like Korah waved his slogans, not to honor God, but to dethrone His order.

III. The Motive – Envy Dressed as Spirituality

At its core, Korah’s rebellion wasn’t about doctrine. It wasn’t about truth. It wasn’t about holiness. It was about envy. Numbers 16:10–11 exposes it: *“And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also? For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD.”*

That’s it. Korah wanted the priesthood. He wanted what God gave Aaron. He wasn’t content with carrying the ark; he wanted to burn the incense. False prophets are never satisfied where God put them. They lust after pulpits they weren’t called to, thrones they weren’t crowned for, ministries they weren’t gifted for.

And notice—envy always hides under a robe of spirituality. False prophets rarely say, “I want power.” They say, “God told me I deserve this.” They won’t say, “I want money.” They

say, “God told me to claim this blessing.” They won’t say, “I want to overthrow Moses.” They say, “Moses is abusing his power.” Same envy, new excuses.

IV. The Test – Censers Before the Lord

Moses doesn’t waste time debating. He sets the showdown: *“Take you censers, Korah, and all his company, and put fire therein... and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy.”* (Num. 16:6–7).

That’s the only test that matters: not who shouts the loudest, not who gathers the biggest crowd, not who quotes the most verses out of context. The test is who God chooses. The false prophet can wave his censer, but God won’t accept his fire. The true prophet can stand alone, and God will vindicate him.

This principle still stands. You don’t prove your ministry by numbers, applause, book sales, or TV ratings. You prove it by whether God puts His fire on it. False prophets can imitate. They can organize. They can gather 250 princes to their side. But they can’t call down God’s fire. That belongs to His chosen man.

V. The Judgment – The Earth Opens Her Mouth

When Korah and his company persist, God acts. Numbers 16:31–33: *“The ground clave asunder that was under them: and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up... They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit.”*

No slow death. No natural explanation. One moment they’re standing with censers in hand, the next moment the earth is devouring them alive. That’s God’s commentary on self-appointed prophets. He doesn’t just silence them—He swallows them.

And note the symbolism. The false prophet craves the heights, but God sends him to the depths. He wants the platform, but he gets the pit. He wants to stand tall in front of the congregation, but he ends up buried beneath their feet. That’s the destiny of every Korah: not exaltation, but humiliation; not authority, but the abyss.

VI. The Aftershock – When Rebels Breed Rebels

You’d think the congregation would learn their lesson. But the very next day, the people murmur: *“Ye have killed the people of the LORD.”* (Num. 16:41). They still side with Korah!

They still brand the rebels as “the people of the LORD.” They accuse Moses and Aaron of murder.

That’s the madness of rebellion. False prophets always attract sympathizers. Even when God judges them, people cry foul. That’s why cult leaders still have defenders years after they’re exposed. That’s why apostate churches still pack pews after their scandals hit the headlines. People love their Korahs.

But God doesn’t play. He sends a plague that kills 14,700 until Aaron stands with a censer and makes atonement. Lesson: siding with false prophets is as deadly as being one. The contagion of rebellion spreads unless it’s purged by intercession and judgment.

VII. Korah’s Spirit Today – Self-Appointed Leaders Everywhere

Korah may be buried, but his spirit is alive and well. Look around:

- **The Self-Appointed Pastor.** No call, no training, no fruit, but he hangs out a sign, grabs a Bible, and declares himself “Bishop.” That’s Korah.
- **The Charismatic “Apostle.”** Claims new authority, new revelations, new visions. No submission to the Book, just self-proclaimed titles. That’s Korah.
- **The Cult Founder.** Convinces a crowd that all other churches are wrong and only he has the truth. That’s Korah.
- **The Roman Pontiff.** Exalts himself as the Vicar of Christ, usurping authority Christ gave to no man. That’s Korah in robes and gold.
- **The Liberal Scholar.** Puts himself over the Bible, declaring which verses are authentic and which are not. That’s Korah with a PhD.

Everywhere you turn, men are waving censers God never gave them. They preach without calling, lead without anointing, and rule without authority. They are self-appointed prophets, and their end is Korah’s end.

VIII. The Contrast – Moses Versus Korah

Line the two up:

- Moses didn’t want leadership; God thrust it on him. Korah craved leadership God never gave.

- Moses interceded for rebels; Korah incited rebels.
- Moses fell on his face before God; Korah puffed up his chest before men.
- Moses carried the burden of the people; Korah carried only his own ambition.

That's the difference between a true prophet and a false one: humility versus pride, obedience versus envy, God's call versus self-appointment.

IX. The Final Word – The Pit Still Waits

Jude 11 sealed Korah's fate: "perished in the gainsaying of Core." Gainsaying—contradiction, opposition, rebellion. That's the legacy of Korah. His censer, once polished and proud, ended up hammered into plating for the altar as a memorial (Num. 16:38). Every time Israel looked at that altar, they saw the reminder: "Don't play Korah. Don't wave fire God didn't give."

That warning still burns today. Every pulpit with a self-made prophet, every church with a man usurping God's authority, every movement built on rebellion is just one step from the pit.

So the call is simple: Don't follow Korah. Don't sympathize with him. Don't applaud him. Stand with Moses, stand with the Book, stand with God's order. Because when the earth opens her mouth again—and it will—you don't want to be holding a censer you had no business waving.

Conclusion – God Chooses, Not Man

Korah's rebellion is the story of every false prophet who crowned himself. It's the story of ambition without calling, envy without submission, rebellion without repentance. And his end—alive in the pit—is God's exclamation mark.

So what's the lesson? Authority is God's to give, not yours to grab. Fire belongs to God's altar, not man's censer. Prophets are called by God, not self-appointed by ambition. And every Korah, ancient or modern, ends the same way: swallowed by judgment.

Choose wisely. Follow the man God calls, not the man who calls himself.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

5 of 25: Dreamers and Deceivers – False Prophets Who Lead Astray (Deuteronomy 13)

Introduction – When the Dreamers Preach

Every age has its snake oil salesmen. They stand up, wave their hands, and tell you, “God gave me a dream... God gave me a vision... God told me last night while I was shaving.” Deuteronomy 13 blows the whistle on these dreamers and deceivers. The passage is a divine mugshot of the prophet who claims supernatural revelation but uses it to drag God’s people into apostasy.

Moses told Israel flat-out: If a prophet or a dreamer arises, and he gives you a sign or wonder, and it comes to pass, but then he says, “*Let us go after other gods,*” don’t clap, don’t cheer, don’t book him for a revival. Kill him. Wipe him out. Purge the evil.

That’s not seeker-sensitive. That’s not “coexist.” That’s God’s law against religious fraud. And it tells you something right at the start: false prophets aren’t always exposed by failed predictions. Sometimes their signs come true. Sometimes their wonders are real. The test isn’t whether it works—it’s whether it lines up with the Book.

Brother, the dreamers are everywhere today. They’ve got podcasts, pulpits, TV shows, TikTok channels. They’ve got visions of heaven, tours of hell, conversations with angels, chats with the dead. And gullible Christians eat it up. But Deuteronomy 13 warns: dreams can deceive, visions can mislead, wonders can be bait for idolatry. Don’t follow the dreamer; follow the Book.

I. The Sign and the Wonder – When False Prophets Get It Right

Deuteronomy 13:1–2: “*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...*”

Did you catch that? It comes to pass. The sign works. The wonder happens. The dream matches reality. This isn’t some clown on late-night TV missing the rapture date for the twelfth time. This is a false prophet with real power, real accuracy, real signs.

That wrecks a lot of modern thinking. Most Christians assume if it “works,” it must be God. If the healing happens, if the prophecy comes true, if the vision matches, it must be the Holy Spirit. Wrong. Pharaoh’s magicians worked miracles. The Antichrist will call fire down from heaven. Signs and wonders are not proof of truth.

The question isn't, "Did it happen?" The question is, "Where does it point you?" If the sign points you to another god, another gospel, another authority, it's false—even if it works.

That's the hook of the dreamer. He wows you with something impressive, then slips in the poison pill: "Now let's follow this god, this idol, this new revelation." That's how cults start. That's how apostasy spreads.

II. The Seduction – “Let Us Go After Other Gods”

The real crime of the dreamer isn't the dream—it's the direction. Deuteronomy 13:2 continues: *“...saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them.”*

That's the acid test. Where does the message lead? Does it draw you closer to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God revealed in His Word? Or does it pull you toward something else?

False prophets are recruiters for rival gods. They may not call them “Baal” or “Molech.” They may call them “success,” “self-discovery,” “Mother Earth,” “the Christ consciousness,” “Allah,” “the church,” “the sacraments,” or just plain “you.” But it's the same bait: leave the true God, chase the substitute.

That's why Paul in Galatians 1:8–9 says, *“Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”* It doesn't matter if he's got wings, dreams, or a halo. If the message turns you from the gospel of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, it's damnable. Period.

III. The Test – God Proves His People

Now here's the kicker. Deuteronomy 10:12: *“...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.”*

God allows dreamers. He lets deceivers rise. Why? To test His people. To see if they'll cling to His Word or chase signs. To see if they love Him or just love wonders.

That means the existence of false prophets isn't an accident—it's a divine test. Every cult leader, every dreamer, every smooth-talking preacher with a new revelation is God's way of asking, “Do you love Me, or do you love the show? Do you love My Word, or do you love signs?”

That flips the script. False prophets aren't just a threat—they're a thermometer. They reveal who really loves God and who just loves religion. Those who chase the dreamer fail the test. Those who cling to the Book pass it.

IV. The Command – Thou Shalt Not Hearken

Deuteronomy 13:3 gives the marching orders: *“Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams.”*

Simple. Don't listen. Don't entertain. Don't argue. Don't debate. Don't say, “Well, maybe he's right about some things.” Shut it off. Walk away. Purge the influence.

That's the mistake Christians make today. They think they can dabble. “I'll watch this YouTube prophet just for curiosity.” “I'll read this book on near-death experiences just for fun.” “I'll visit this charismatic conference just to see.” And before long, the hook is in. God said, Don't hearken. Don't give them your ear.

That's why false prophets thrive—because God's people treat them like entertainment instead of threats. They're not entertainers. They're deceivers. And their endgame is your apostasy.

V. The Penalty – Cut Off the Dreamer

Moses didn't mince words: *“And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death... so shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.”* (Deut. 13:5).

In Israel under the Law, the penalty for leading people to other gods was death. No second chances. No “give him a platform.” No “maybe he'll repent.” Kill him. Why? Because he was spiritual poison. And you don't sip poison—you purge it.

We're not under the Law now. We don't stone false prophets. But the principle stands: false prophets must be rejected, exposed, silenced, purged. Not tolerated. Not platformed. Not invited to conferences. Not treated as “brothers in Christ with minor differences.” They're enemies of the gospel. And Paul says in Titus 1:11, *“whose mouths must be stopped.”*

The modern church has forgotten this. We tolerate everything. We “dialogue.” We “agree to disagree.” And in doing so, we let dreamers preach their poison unchecked. Moses didn't “dialogue” with idol-peddlers. He buried them.

VI. The Intimacy Test – Even If It’s Family

Deuteronomy 13 doesn’t stop with public prophets. It drills down to the personal level. Verses 6–8: *“If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom... entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods... thou shalt not consent unto him.”*

That’s brutal. Even if it’s family. Even if it’s your spouse. Even if it’s your closest friend. If they pull you toward idolatry, you cut it off. No pity. No covering. No compromise.

That cuts against modern sentimentality. We idolize family ties above truth. We excuse sin because it’s in the family. We tolerate apostasy because it’s blood. But God says loyalty to Him trumps loyalty to kin. Jesus echoed it: *“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me.”* (Matt. 10:37).

The false prophet test isn’t just public—it’s personal. Will you side with truth even when family deceives?

VII. The City Test – Collective Apostasy

Deuteronomy 13:12–16 expands it further: if a whole city turns to idolatry through deceivers, the city is to be destroyed. Houses burned. Spoil consumed. Nothing spared.

That shows the contagion of false prophets. They don’t just corrupt individuals—they can sway whole communities. That’s cults, denominations, movements. Entire cities, churches, nations can be turned by dreamers. And God said, when that happens, burn it down. Don’t salvage it. Don’t compromise with it. Wipe it out.

That’s why the Reformation mattered—because entire churches had become apostate. That’s why separation matters today—because whole denominations have followed the dreamers. The lesson of Deuteronomy 13 is clear: you don’t reform Baal worship; you destroy it.

VIII. The New Testament Echo

The New Testament doesn’t lower the bar. It raises it.

- Jesus warned of false Christs and false prophets showing signs and wonders (Matt. 24:24).
- Paul warned of men with “feigned words” making merchandise of you (2 Pet. 2:3).

- John said to test the spirits (1 John 4:1).
- Revelation shows the ultimate dreamer—the False Prophet—calling fire down from heaven to deceive the world (Rev. 13:13).

From Deuteronomy to Revelation, the line is unbroken. False prophets use signs, wonders, dreams, visions. They work. They impress. And they lead to destruction. The only defense is clinging to the Book and refusing to hearken.

IX. The Application – The Dreamers of Today

So who are the Deuteronomy 13 dreamers today?

- **The Charismatic Visionaries.** Claiming dreams of heaven, trips to hell, angelic encounters. They wow crowds, then introduce heresy.
- **The Prosperity Gurus.** They prophesy promotions, pay raises, blessings. The sign may “come to pass,” but it pulls you to worship mammon.
- **The Ecumenical Prophets.** They dream of a “united church,” then entice you to bow before Rome.
- **The Cult Leaders.** They start with dreams and revelations, then build whole cities of deception—Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Scientology.
- **The Liberal Scholars.** Their “dreams” are intellectual visions—new ways to read the Bible that strip it of authority.

Different packaging, same spirit. Moses’ warning is just as urgent now as then.

X. The Contrast – Christ the True Prophet

Line up the dreamer with Jesus Christ, and the contrast is glaring:

- The dreamer says, “Follow me to another god.” Christ says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”
- The dreamer says, “Here’s a new revelation.” Christ says, “It is finished.”
- The dreamer gives you signs and wonders. Christ gives you His blood.
- The dreamer leads to death. Christ leads to life.

That’s the dividing line. Every dreamer points away from the cross. Christ alone points to it.

Conclusion – Don't Follow the Dreamers

Deuteronomy 13 is God's eternal warning label on the dreamers and deceivers. Signs and wonders don't prove truth. Dreams and visions don't guarantee God's hand. The test is simple: Does it line up with the Book? Does it exalt the Lord alone?

Moses' command was clear: purge the dreamer. Don't listen. Don't sympathize. Don't compromise. Because every dreamer is a test of your love. Do you love God, or do you love the show? Do you cling to the Word, or do you chase the wonders?

Brother, the earth still has room for Korah, Balaam, and every dreamer who trades God's truth for their visions. Don't follow them. Don't pity them. Don't excuse them. Follow the Book. Follow the blood. Follow the Lord.

Because when the smoke clears, every dreamer will be forgotten, every deceiver will be judged, and every false prophet will be in the lake of fire. But the Word of God endures forever.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

6 of 25: The 400 False Prophets – Ahab's Pep Rally of Lies (1 Kings 22 / 2 Chronicles 18)

Introduction – The Biggest “Revival Service” That Never Was

If you want a picture of modern Christianity's circus shows—complete with stage props, cheerleaders, and smoke machines—you don't have to look any further than 1 Kings 22 and 2 Chronicles 18. There we meet the original megachurch pep rally: four hundred false prophets, one king desperate for a word of comfort, and one lonely preacher with the guts to say, *“You're all liars, and you're going to die.”*

Ahab, the king of Israel, wanted to take Ramoth-gilead back from the Syrians. But he wanted a spiritual stamp of approval first. So he called in his prophets—all 400 of them. The stadium filled. The music swelled. The stage props came out (Zedekiah with his iron horns). The crowd shouted in unison: *“Go up! For the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king!”*

It was a pep rally of lies, a spiritual theater, a revival without repentance. And it looked powerful, persuasive, convincing—until one lonely voice cut through the noise. Micaiah,

the man Ahab hated because he never prophesied good about him, stood alone and told the truth: you're going to battle, and you're going to die.

That's the pattern of false prophets in every age: a crowd shouting comfort, a king demanding affirmation, and one solitary preacher branded "negative," "divisive," and "hateful" for daring to contradict the show.

Let's walk through the anatomy of Ahab's pep rally of lies.

I. The Gathering – Four Hundred Yes-Men

When Ahab asks, "*Shall I go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear?*" (1 Kings 22:6), the four hundred prophets don't hesitate. They all answer the same way: "*Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.*"

Notice the uniformity. Not one dissenter. Not one cautious voice. Not one "maybe." Four hundred voices in perfect harmony, telling the king exactly what he wanted to hear.

That's false prophecy in a nutshell. It's not about truth; it's about consensus. It's not about "Thus saith the Lord"; it's about "Thus saith the majority." When four hundred preachers agree without a hint of tension, you can bet your boots they're lying. Real preaching divides. Truth cuts. The Word of God is a sword, not a choir rehearsal.

But Ahab loved it. That's why Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:3, "*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.*" Ahab had itchy ears, and four hundred prophets lined up to scratch them.

II. The Cheerleader – Zedekiah's Iron Horns

As if the chorus wasn't enough, Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah steps up with props. He makes horns of iron and waves them around: "*Thus saith the LORD, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them.*" (1 Kings 22:11).

There's your first Bible example of a preacher using visual aids to stir emotions. Zedekiah turned prophecy into performance art. He wasn't just preaching—he was acting. That's what false prophets do. They know truth alone won't sell, so they spice it up with theatrics. Today it's fog machines, laser lights, and rock bands. In Ahab's day, it was iron horns. Same circus, different props.

Notice also the confidence. He didn't mumble. He didn't hedge. He shouted, "Thus saith the LORD!"—and he was dead wrong. False prophets don't whisper; they roar. They shout the loudest when they're furthest from the truth.

III. The Lonely Voice – Micaiah

Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, wasn't convinced. Four hundred voices weren't enough for him. He asked, "Isn't there a prophet of the LORD besides?" (1 Kings 22:7). Translation: "Do you have anybody who actually speaks for God, not just for you?"

Ahab groaned: "*There is yet one man, Micaiah... but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.*" (v. 8). There it is—the mark of a true prophet: hated by kings, disliked by crowds, despised by liars.

When Micaiah finally comes in, he plays along for a moment. He echoes the false prophets sarcastically: "*Go, and prosper.*" Ahab snaps: "How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD?" And Micaiah drops the bomb: "*I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd.*" (v. 17). Translation: "You're going to lose, and you're going to die."

That's preaching. That's guts. That's what separates God's man from the crowd. Four hundred said, "Victory!" One man said, "Death." And history proved the one right and the 400 wrong.

IV. The Vision – A Lying Spirit

Micaiah goes further. He reveals what's happening behind the curtain: "*I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him... And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?*" (vv. 19–20). A spirit volunteers: "*I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.*" God says, "Go."

That's heavy. God allowed a lying spirit to fill the mouths of 400 prophets to lure Ahab to his death. That shows you two things:

1. False prophets are under divine judgment. Their lies aren't just human—they're orchestrated by hell with God's permission.

2. When men reject truth long enough, God gives them over to lies. Romans 1 says He gives them up. 2 Thessalonians 2 says He sends strong delusion. Ahab wanted lies, so God handed him a choir of them.

Brother, that's America today. People wanted lies, so God flooded them with lying prophets—prosperity preachers, liberal scholars, political chaplains. They wanted smoke, so God gave them smoke machines. They wanted iron horns, so God gave them props. Judgment isn't just in fire—it's in lies.

V. The Slap – Zedekiah's Rage

Zedekiah didn't like being called a liar. He strutted up and slapped Micaiah across the face: *"Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?"* (v. 24).

That's always the reaction of false prophets when exposed: violence, mockery, insult. They can't win with truth, so they swing with fists. Today it's lawsuits, cancellations, smear campaigns. Yesterday it was slaps in the face. Different tools, same rage.

Micaiah didn't flinch. He answered: *"Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself."* (v. 25). Translation: "You'll eat your words when you're cowering in fear." That's confidence. That's faith in the Word of God over the mob.

VI. The Prison – Bread of Affliction

Ahab was furious. He ordered Micaiah locked up, fed with bread of affliction and water of affliction, until he returned in peace. Micaiah's last words before prison: *"If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me."* (v. 28).

That's the lonely price of truth. Four hundred prophets got seats at the king's table. Micaiah got a cell. Four hundred dined in luxury. Micaiah ate stale bread. Four hundred strutted on stage. Micaiah rotted in the shadows.

And yet—four hundred were forgotten. Micaiah's words still thunder today. That's the legacy of a true prophet: hated in life, vindicated in history.

VII. The Judgment – Ahab's Arrow

The battle came. Ahab disguised himself, thinking he could outwit God. Jehoshaphat dressed like a king, nearly got killed, but escaped. And then it happened: *"And a certain*

man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness.” (v. 34).

A random arrow. A chance shot. But it found the one gap in Ahab’s armor. That was no accident. That was God’s Word hunting him down.

And there’s your proof: the four hundred were wrong, the one was right. Ahab died, his blood washed in the pool of Samaria, dogs licking it as Elijah had prophesied. The pep rally ended in a funeral.

VIII. The Lessons – The Anatomy of False Prophets

From Ahab’s pep rally, we learn the marks of false prophets:

1. **They Agree Too Much.** Four hundred in perfect harmony is a sign of compromise, not truth.
2. **They Perform for the Crowd.** Iron horns, theatrics, smoke—anything but Scripture.
3. **They Preach What People Want.** Ahab wanted victory, so they promised victory.
4. **They Hate God’s Men.** They slap, mock, and imprison the truth-tellers.
5. **They End in Judgment.** Their words vanish; God’s Word stands.

IX. The Modern Pep Rally

Look around today and tell me if you don’t see Ahab’s pep rally on every corner.

- **The Prosperity Conference.** Packed stadiums, smoke machines, iron horns of “seed faith.” Four hundred prophets chanting, “Go up and prosper!” while the crowd throws money at the stage.
- **The Ecumenical Council.** Bishops, priests, pastors, rabbis, imams, all declaring, “We’re all one!” Four hundred voices of compromise, no Micaiah allowed.
- **The Political Prayer Breakfast.** Preachers lining up to bless the king, no matter his sins. Iron horns polished, lies sanctified, Ahab grinning.
- **The Liberal Seminary.** Professors in robes, waving their horns of “critical scholarship,” assuring students the Bible doesn’t mean what it says. Four hundred liars, one Book silenced.

Brother, it's the same circus. The only difference is the props. The pep rally is still on.

X. The Contrast – Micaiah's Courage

Against four hundred liars, one man stood. He had no props, no crowd, no power, no platform. Just the Book and the guts to speak it. And that's what God's looking for today: Micaiahs. Men who don't care if the king hates them, if the crowd mocks them, if the false prophets slap them. Men who'd rather eat bread of affliction than dine on lies. Men who'll say, "If the Lord hasn't spoken by me, then I'm nothing"—and stake everything on the Word.

Conclusion – The Pep Rally Ends in Judgment

The story ends with Ahab bleeding in his chariot, the dogs licking his blood. Four hundred prophets vanish into obscurity. Zedekiah hides in shame. Micaiah's words echo forever.

That's the destiny of every pep rally of lies. The show will end. The music will fade. The smoke will clear. The horns will rust. The crowd will scatter. And the Word of God will still stand, vindicated by judgment.

So here's the choice: join the pep rally of lies, or stand with the lonely voice of truth. Sit with the four hundred, or suffer with Micaiah. Eat at the king's table, or chew bread of affliction. But remember—only one side walks away right with God.

And when the arrow of judgment flies, you'd better make sure you're not marching with Ahab's prophets.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

7 of 25: Jezebel's Prophets – False Prophets at Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18)

Introduction – When the Stage is Packed but the Fire is Absent

If you want a showdown that strips false prophets bare, look no further than Mount Carmel. Four hundred fifty prophets of Baal, four hundred prophets of the groves, Jezebel's hand-picked religious cheer squad—all standing in opposition to one scruffy, lonely prophet of God named Elijah. The king's table was theirs, the queen's favor was theirs, the crowd's attention was theirs. Elijah had nothing but a broken altar, a jar of water, and a Book in his soul.

The odds? Eight hundred fifty to one. But when God lights the fire, one man and one Book outweigh every false prophet on the planet. That's the lesson of Carmel: truth doesn't need a majority, it needs fire.

And notice who bankrolls the circus: Jezebel. The queen who painted her face, hunted prophets, and fed liars. Every false prophet eventually traces back to Jezebel's table—political power funding religious lies. That's as true today as it was then.

Let's walk through the anatomy of Carmel, the greatest "revival service" that went up in smoke—literally.

I. Jezebel's Payroll – The Prophets Who Ate at Her Table

1 Kings 18:19 says Elijah called for "*the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.*" That's the opening shot. These weren't starving mystics. They were government-sponsored clergy. Their meals, their robes, their salaries came straight from the queen's kitchen.

That's the first mark of a false prophet: he's on somebody's payroll. He preaches what the hand that feeds him allows. You think those prophets were going to stand up and preach repentance? Not when Jezebel paid the bills. They weren't prophets of Baal because they loved Baal—they were prophets of Baal because Jezebel signed the checks.

That's today's pulpit to a tee. Preachers beholden to donors, pastors terrified of deacon boards, denominational puppets who'll never preach against sin because the offering plates would run dry. They eat at Jezebel's table—whether that table's in Rome, in a megachurch, or in Washington, D.C.

II. The Challenge – How Long Halt Ye Between Two Opinions?

When Elijah stands before Israel, he doesn't flatter. He doesn't warm them up with stories. He cuts straight to the chase: "*How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.*" (1 Kings 18:21).

That's the essence of true preaching. No middle ground. No ecumenical mush. No "find your own truth." Pick. God or Baal. Christ or idols. The cross or the circus.

But what does the crowd do? "*The people answered him not a word.*" That's the paralysis of compromise. They'd been sitting at Jezebel's table too long. They'd been entertained by Baal's prophets until they forgot how to answer truth.

That's the same silence in modern pews. Preachers ask, "Will you stand for Christ or for culture?" Silence. "Will you repent or perish?" Silence. "Will you believe the Book or the scholars?" Silence. The people halt between two opinions, and the false prophets thrive on their hesitation.

III. The Circus – Prophets of Baal Put on a Show

Now the real show starts. The prophets of Baal take the stage. They build an altar, dress a bullock, and start calling on Baal. Morning till noon, they cry: "*O Baal, hear us.*" But the Book says, "*There was no voice, nor any that answered.*" (1 Kings 18:26).

So they crank up the volume. They leap on the altar. They dance. They cut themselves with knives till the blood gushes. They turn worship into a blood-soaked frenzy.

There's your first Pentecostal service, minus the microphones. All hype, no fire. All shouting, no substance. They cried louder, they jumped higher, they bled more—but the heavens stayed silent.

False prophets always substitute noise for power. They think God is impressed with volume, theatrics, drama. They equate frenzy with faith. But when the smoke clears, there's no answer.

IV. The Mockery – Elijah's Sarcasm

Now comes one of the greatest moments in Scripture: Elijah mocks them. "*Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.*" (1 Kings 18:27).

That's holy sarcasm. That's divine ridicule. Elijah doesn't sit respectfully in interfaith dialogue. He doesn't nod politely. He taunts them. He rubs their noses in the absurdity of their god. "Maybe Baal's on the toilet. Shout louder!"

That's what modern preachers have forgotten. Sometimes the only way to deal with false prophets is mockery. Don't debate. Don't coddle. Don't "seek common ground." Laugh them off the stage. Expose the stupidity of their idols. A god who can't answer by fire isn't worth an ounce of respect.

V. The Simplicity – Elijah Repairs the Altar

After the circus wears out, Elijah steps up. No dancing, no shouting, no knives, no theatrics. Just simplicity. He repairs the altar of the LORD that was broken down. Twelve stones for twelve tribes. A trench around the altar. A sacrifice laid in order. Water poured until it drenches everything.

That's the contrast. False prophets complicate worship—more noise, more rituals, more props. True prophets simplify it: repair the altar, put the sacrifice in place, call on God.

And notice: he soaks the altar with water. Why? To make sure no skeptic could claim trickery. False prophets rely on gimmicks; God doesn't need them. The wetter the altar, the greater the glory when fire falls.

VI. The Fire – God Answers

Elijah prays a short prayer: *“LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.”* (1 Kings 18:36).

No theatrics. No babbling. Just a prayer that exalts God, not self. And immediately the fire of the LORD falls, consumes the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust, and even the water. No doubt, no debate, no discussion. God answered.

That's the difference: false prophets pray all day and get silence. True prophets pray once, and heaven moves. Because God honors His Word, not their show.

VII. The Judgment – Slaughter at the Brook Kishon

Elijah doesn't end with applause. He doesn't call for a standing ovation. He calls for swords. *“Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape.”* And they slaughter them by the brook Kishon. (1 Kings 18:40).

That's how God deals with false prophets. Not with hugs. Not with compromise. With judgment. The Law demanded death for idol-peddlers, and Elijah carried it out.

Now, we're not under the Law. We don't kill false prophets today. But the principle remains: don't coddle them. Don't platform them. Don't tolerate them. Their mouths must be stopped. Their influence must be purged. Their end is death—if not by sword, then by hellfire.

VIII. The Jezebel Factor – When Queens Feed Prophets

Never forget whose table those prophets ate at. Jezebel's. That's the political-religious marriage that always breeds false prophecy. When the state pays the prophets, the prophets preach what the state demands.

That's Rome. That's state churches. That's political chaplains. That's woke preachers cozy with Washington. Jezebel pays, the prophets dance. And Elijah has to stand against not just the prophets, but the queen who feeds them.

That's why the church must stay separate from the state. Every time God's men marry political power, Jezebel starts cooking, and Baal's prophets multiply.

IX. The Modern Carmel – The Same Circus

Tell me if this doesn't sound familiar:

- **The Mega-Rally.** Packed arenas, loud music, prophets shouting prosperity promises. They leap, they shout, they whip crowds into frenzy—but no fire falls.
- **The Ecumenical Summit.** Hundreds of clergy chanting in unison, waving props, promising peace. But the heavens stay silent.
- **The Charismatic Service.** Hours of shouting, babbling, rolling, cutting themselves with emotional theatrics. No answer from heaven.
- **The Vatican Pageant.** Robes, incense, relics, processions. But no fire. Just smoke.

Carmel is on repeat. The world applauds Baal's prophets because they're entertaining. But when the fire test comes, they're exposed as powerless.

X. The True Prophet – Alone but Vindicated

Elijah stood alone. No crowd, no paycheck, no queen, no stage props. Just the Word and the fire. That's what God honors.

And that's the call today. Be willing to stand alone. Be willing to mock Baal's circus. Be willing to repair the altar with twelve stones while the crowd jeers. Be willing to pray the simple prayer while others scream. Because when the fire falls, it won't be on Baal's altar. It'll be on God's.

Conclusion – Fire or Frenzy

The showdown at Carmel isn't just history. It's a test still running. Who will you follow—the prophets of Baal with their noise, their theatrics, their queen's table? Or the lonely Elijah with his repaired altar and his prayer?

False prophets always multiply. Jezebel always pays their bills. The crowd always halts between two opinions. But God always answers by fire, not by frenzy.

And when the fire falls, it consumes everything—sacrifice, altar, dust, water. It leaves no room for doubt. That's God's way of proving the dreamers liars and the lonely prophet true.

So choose your side. Jezebel's prophets or Elijah's God. The pep rally or the fire. Because when the brook Kishon runs red again—when judgment falls—there won't be room for both.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

8 of 25: False Prophets in Nehemiah's Day – Enemies in Religious Garb (Nehemiah 6:10–14)

Introduction – Wolves Wearing Prayer Shawls

The devil doesn't always come with a sword in his hand. Sometimes he shows up in a robe, quoting Scripture, pretending to be a "man of God." Nehemiah found that out the hard way. In Nehemiah 6, while he was rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, he faced not just outside enemies like Sanballat and Tobiah, but insiders dressed like prophets. These weren't pagans with spears; they were supposed spiritual leaders whispering "God told me..." in his ear.

Nehemiah had bricks in one hand and a sword in the other, but the real battle wasn't just against physical opposition—it was against religious frauds. These men wore the garments of piety, but their paychecks came from Nehemiah's enemies. They weren't prophets of the Lord; they were prophets for hire, wolves in prayer shawls, enemies in religious garb.

And that's the sting: the devil knows sometimes the most dangerous enemy isn't the one who threatens you from the outside, but the one who claims to be speaking for God from the inside.

Nehemiah's showdown with Shemaiah and the rest of the false prophets is a lesson every believer needs right now. Because, brother, the Sanballats and Tobiahs of our age still fund

religious frauds. The walls of truth are still under siege, and false prophets are still selling their services to sabotage the work of God.

I. The Setup – The Enemy’s Last Trick

By the time we hit Nehemiah 6, the walls of Jerusalem were nearly complete. Verse 1 says, *“there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates).”* The enemies tried ridicule, threats, conspiracies, and open war. Nothing worked. The wall kept rising.

So what do they try next? Subtlety. If they can’t stop the work by force, maybe they can stop it by fraud. Enter Shemaiah, a man “shut up” in his house, pretending to be a prophet. He invites Nehemiah over with a “word from the Lord.”

That’s the devil’s last card: when bullets and bricks don’t work, he sends a Bible verse. When persecution fails, infiltration succeeds. That’s what Paul warned about in 2 Corinthians 11:13–15: *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ... Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”*

II. The False Word – “Let’s Hide in the Temple”

Shemaiah’s pitch is slick: *“Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors... for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.”* (Neh. 6:10).

Sounds spiritual, doesn’t it? Go to the temple. Seek refuge in God’s house. Hide in the holy place. What could be wrong with that?

Here’s what’s wrong: God never told Nehemiah to do it. Shemaiah was faking revelation. He dressed his fearmongering in religious language. He wrapped rebellion in a “thus saith the Lord.”

That’s the calling card of false prophets. They don’t usually come snarling; they come whispering pious lines. “God told me to tell you...” “The Lord showed me in a dream...” “It’s God’s will that you...” And nine times out of ten, it’s not God at all—it’s Tobiah’s paycheck in their back pocket.

III. The Discernment – “Should Such a Man as I Flee?”

Nehemiah wasn't fooled. His reply is legendary: *"Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in."* (v. 11).

That's steel. That's backbone. Nehemiah smelled the fraud immediately. He knew three things:

1. **It was cowardly.** God called him to build, not to hide. Running would discredit him before the people.
2. **It was unlawful.** As a layman, he had no right to enter the holy place. That was for priests only.
3. **It was ungodly.** God hadn't said it—Shemaiah had.

Discernment is the antidote to false prophecy. Nehemiah had his nose in the Book, his eyes on the wall, his ears tuned to the real voice of God. He could spot a fraud by instinct. Most Christians today fall for every "word from the Lord" because they don't know the Book. Nehemiah didn't need a seminary degree. He just knew God's Word enough to call Shemaiah's bluff.

IV. The Exposure – Hired by the Enemy

Verse 12–13 nails it down: *"And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him... But he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him."*

There it is. Shemaiah wasn't just mistaken; he was bought. He was a mercenary in a prophet's cloak. His "ministry" was a paycheck from the enemy camp.

And he wasn't alone. Verse 14 mentions "the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets." A whole network of religious frauds taking bribes to discourage God's people. Not just one rogue voice—an entire religious establishment on the devil's payroll.

That's the real danger. False prophets rarely work solo. They form networks, councils, denominations, associations. Jezebel had her 850 prophets. Ahab had his 400 yes-men. Nehemiah's enemies had a whole guild of them. And every one of them was a hireling.

V. The Pattern – How False Prophets Operate

From Shemaiah and Noadiah, we can extract the playbook of every false prophet in history:

1. **They Cloak Lies in Piety.** "Let's meet in the temple." Nothing sounds holier than hiding in God's house. But holiness without truth is fraud.

2. **They Prey on Fear.** “They will slay thee.” False prophets thrive on scaring people into bad decisions.
3. **They Push Cowardice.** Nehemiah was called to stand firm; Shemaiah urged him to run. False prophets always push the easy way out.
4. **They’re on Somebody’s Payroll.** Shemaiah’s check came from Sanballat and Tobiah. Modern false prophets cash checks from donors, denominations, politicians, or publishers.
5. **They Multiply.** One fraud attracts others. By verse 14, it’s not just Shemaiah but a whole company.

VI. The Modern Shemaiahs – Hired Guns in the Pulpit

Don’t think this is ancient history. The Shemaiahs are alive and well in 2025.

- **The Political Chaplain.** He baptizes the sins of Washington in religious language. He waves a Bible while excusing corruption. His paycheck isn’t from God’s call; it’s from Sanballat’s table.
- **The Prosperity Preacher.** He tells you to “sow a seed” and “hide in the temple” of financial blessing. Fear-based manipulation, wrapped in Scripture.
- **The Ecumenical Pastor.** He whispers, “Let’s come together in unity. Forget doctrine. Forget separation. Let’s meet in the temple.” Hired by Tobiah to neuter the wall-builders.
- **The Liberal Scholar.** He tells you the Bible doesn’t mean what it says. He’s funded by unbelieving institutions. His paycheck proves his loyalty.
- **The Woke Preacher.** He cloaks social rebellion in pious buzzwords. He tells the church to abandon truth in the name of “love” and “justice.” Hired by culture, not called by God.

Everywhere you turn, Shemaiah is still preaching: “Hide, compromise, soften, run.” And everywhere you turn, Sanballat and Tobiah are still signing the checks.

VII. The Application – Should Such a Man as I Flee?

That's the line every believer needs today. Should such a man as I flee? You're saved, blood-bought, sealed by the Spirit, called to stand in the evil day, armed with the Sword of the Spirit. And you're going to run because some religious fraud told you to?

No, brother. When the Sanballats threaten, you build. When the Tobiahs bribe, you resist. When the Shemaiahs whisper, you call their bluff. You don't hide in temples of compromise; you stand on the wall of truth.

VIII. The Contrast – Nehemiah's Prayer Versus Shemaiah's Prophecy

Nehemiah ends the passage with prayer: *"My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear."* (v. 14).

That's the difference. False prophets try to put men in fear. True prophets put men in prayer. False prophets whisper deception. True prophets cry to God. False prophets are hired by men. True prophets are heard by God.

And in the end, Nehemiah finished the wall in 52 days. Shemaiah is a footnote. The wall still stood; the fraud still fell. That's the destiny of every false prophet versus every man of God.

IX. The Final Word – Enemies in Religious Garb

Nehemiah 6 is proof that not every man with a robe, a vision, or a "word from God" is from God. Some are enemies in religious garb, hired guns for the devil, mercenaries dressed as ministers.

And the test is still the same: does the message line up with God's Word, or does it breed fear, compromise, and cowardice? Nehemiah passed the test because he clung to God's call instead of a false prophet's counsel.

That's the call for us. Don't be swayed by robes, titles, or visions. Don't be manipulated by fear. Don't run when God calls you to stand. Don't hide in temples of compromise. Stand on the wall. Finish the work. Expose the frauds. And when the Sanballats of our age hire the Shemaiahs of our pulpits, answer with Nehemiah's words:

"Should such a man as I flee?"

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

9 of 25: Hananiah – The False Prophet of a Broken Yoke (Jeremiah 28)

Introduction – When Props Replace Prophecy

If there's one scene that could be replayed on modern Christian TV networks without changing a thing, it's Jeremiah 28. Picture it: Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, standing with a wooden yoke strapped across his shoulders—a visual sermon straight from God, warning Judah to submit to Babylon's rule as judgment for their sin. Then along comes Hananiah, grinning like a stage performer, grabs the yoke, snaps it in two, and declares, *“Thus saith the LORD, Within two full years will I bring again into this place all the vessels of the LORD's house... and I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.”* (Jer. 28:3–4, 11).

It was a dramatic moment. The crowd gasped. The false prophet stole the spotlight. Jeremiah walked away humiliated—at least, for a moment.

That's how false prophets work. They love props, theatrics, and positive messages. They break wooden yokes but can't break iron ones. They promise deliverance when God decrees discipline. They declare peace when there is no peace.

Hananiah is the archetype of every modern false prophet who substitutes performance for preaching, optimism for obedience, and props for prophecy. His end—death within the year—is God's eternal commentary on the folly of broken-yoke prophets.

I. The Context – Judgment is Coming

Jeremiah had been preaching for years that Judah's sins would bring judgment. Babylon was God's instrument. Nebuchadnezzar was His servant (Jer. 27:6). The message wasn't complicated: surrender to Babylon or be destroyed.

But that didn't sell well. The people wanted hope, not hard truth. They wanted revival, not ruin. And into that climate steps Hananiah, the people-pleaser with a fake prophecy.

That's always the environment where false prophets thrive—when people would rather hear lies than face the consequences of sin. That's why Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:3, *“They will not endure sound doctrine... but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”* Judah's ears were itching, and Hananiah was more than happy to scratch them.

II. The Message – “Two Years to Victory”

Hananiah's prophecy was slick: in two years, the exile would end, the temple treasures would return, the yoke of Babylon would be broken. Peace. Prosperity. Restoration.

Doesn't that sound nice? Doesn't that sound like every modern prosperity preacher's sermon? "Don't worry, the hard times will be short. God's going to restore everything. Victory is around the corner. Claim it. Believe it. Receive it."

The people loved it. A two-year trial sounded far better than seventy years of captivity. Hananiah had a bestseller on his hands. Jeremiah had a funeral dirge. Guess which one the crowd preferred?

III. The Clash – The Yoke Snapped

Jeremiah had been walking around with a wooden yoke on his neck (Jer. 27:2). It was a living parable, a sermon in motion. God told him to wear it as a sign of submission to Babylon.

Hananiah saw his chance. He snatched the yoke off Jeremiah's shoulders, snapped it in front of the crowd, and declared, "*Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.*" (Jer. 28:11).

Theatrics. Showmanship. A sermon illustration turned stunt. The crowd cheered. The false prophet stole the spotlight.

That's how false prophets work: they hijack God's symbols, repurpose them for their lies, and turn preaching into performance. They break wooden yokes in front of cheering crowds but can't stop iron yokes when they fall.

IV. The Silence – Jeremiah Walked Away

After Hananiah's stunt, Jeremiah's response is shocking: "*Then the prophet Jeremiah went his way.*" (Jer. 28:11). He just left. No debate. No shouting match. No counter-stunt. Just silence.

Why? Because Jeremiah knew the truth doesn't need theatrics to defend itself. Lies burn hot and fast, but truth abides. God would vindicate His word in His time.

That's a lesson for us. You don't always need to match false prophets stunt for stunt. You don't need a fog machine to compete with their smoke. Sometimes the best answer is silence—because the Word of God will have the last word.

V. The Counterpunch – Wooden Yokes Replaced with Iron

But God didn't leave it there. He sent Jeremiah back with a heavier word: *"Thou hast broken the yokes of wood; but thou shalt make for them yokes of iron."* (Jer. 28:13).

Translation: Hananiah's stunt didn't remove the judgment—it intensified it. By mocking God's word, he made things worse. Judah wouldn't just wear wood; they'd wear iron. Babylon's rule would be harsher than before.

That's the deadly irony of false prophecy. It doesn't soften judgment; it worsens it. Lies don't cancel truth; they multiply consequences. Every false prophet who promises peace in sin is loading heavier chains on the people he deceives.

VI. The Sentence – Hananiah's Death

Jeremiah drops the hammer: *"Hear now, Hananiah; The LORD hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie. Therefore... this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD."* (Jer. 28:15–16).

Two months later, Hananiah was dead. No escape. No loophole. No appeals. God executed the fraud, and His word stood vindicated.

That's the end of every false prophet. Whether swift or delayed, their destiny is death. Revelation 19:20 says the final false prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire. Hananiah's grave is a down payment on that judgment.

VII. The Anatomy of a False Prophet

From Hananiah's story, we learn the anatomy of every false prophet:

1. **He speaks what people want, not what God says.** Peace instead of judgment.
2. **He uses props and theatrics.** Snapping yokes, waving horns, dazzling crowds.
3. **He contradicts God's Word.** Jeremiah said seventy years; Hananiah said two.
4. **He encourages rebellion.** His lies made people resist God's discipline.
5. **He dies under judgment.** Every broken-yoke prophet ends in a grave.

VIII. The Modern Hananiahs

Hananiah is alive and well today—just with different props.

- **The Prosperity Preacher.** Promises restoration in two years, healing in two weeks, blessing in two days. Always quick fixes, never repentance.
- **The Charismatic Showman.** Breaks “yokes” on stage, waves handkerchiefs, smashes props, all for effect. All theatrics, no truth.
- **The Liberal Pastor.** Says judgment isn’t coming, hell isn’t real, God isn’t angry. Preaches “peace, peace” when there is no peace.
- **The Political Chaplain.** Blesses nations in rebellion, promises prosperity, denies the yoke of God’s judgment on sin.
- **The Social Gospel Prophet.** Preaches activism, justice, and reform but never repentance, holiness, or the cross.

Every one of them is snapping wooden yokes while iron yokes are being forged behind them.

IX. The Contrast – Jeremiah Versus Hananiah

Line them up:

- Jeremiah carried a yoke; Hananiah broke it.
- Jeremiah preached seventy years of captivity; Hananiah promised two years of restoration.
- Jeremiah was hated and ignored; Hananiah was applauded and celebrated.
- Jeremiah’s word stood; Hananiah’s corpse proved him wrong.

That’s the eternal difference: the true prophet carries God’s burden; the false prophet breaks it.

Conclusion – Broken Yokes, Iron Chains

Hananiah’s story is God’s permanent warning against broken-yoke prophets. They promise freedom but deliver chains. They break wood but unleash iron. They preach peace but bring death.

The lesson is simple: don't trust the Hananiahs. Don't fall for the props, the theatrics, the optimism divorced from obedience. Cling to the Book. Cling to the blood. Cling to the God who speaks truth, even when it hurts.

Because at the end of the day, Jeremiah walked free, the walls of Babylon stood, and Hananiah lay in a grave.

That's the destiny of every false prophet of a broken yoke.

10 of 25: Jeremiah's Generation – False Prophets Who Prophesied Peace (Jeremiah 5, 14, 23)

Introduction – When “Peace” is the Devil's Favorite Word

If there's one word that rolls smooth off the tongues of false prophets, it's *peace*. Not the kind Christ gives (John 14:27), but the kind politicians and pulpiteers use to lull sinners into a coma. “Peace, peace” they cry, when there is no peace (Jer. 6:14, 8:11). Jeremiah's day was filled with smooth-talking preachers who promised safety while Babylon's armies were sharpening swords outside the city.

The true prophet thundered judgment, repentance, captivity. The false prophets crooned prosperity, protection, deliverance. Jeremiah wept while they smiled. Jeremiah was imprisoned while they were applauded. Jeremiah was branded a traitor while they were crowned as patriots.

And the worst part? The people loved it. Jeremiah 5:31: *“The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so.”* That's the rotten core of false prophecy—it's not just the preachers, it's the pews that demand the lies.

Brother, if Jeremiah's generation was drowning in peace-preachers, what do you think we've got today? The same crowd, the same message, the same judgment looming. Let's walk through Jeremiah's clash with these frauds and see what it teaches us about our own age.

I. The Environment – Sin-Rotted and Judgment-Ready

By the time Jeremiah began preaching, Judah was a nation on the edge. Idolatry had defiled the land. Corruption ran rampant. The poor were oppressed. The law was ignored. Blood was on their hands. And Babylon was rising as God's hammer of judgment.

Into that environment, Jeremiah preached the unpopular truth: judgment is coming. Repent, or you'll be carried away in chains. Seventy years in Babylon, whether you like it or not.

But the false prophets saw an opportunity. Nobody wanted to hear about judgment. Everybody wanted reassurance. So they preached the opposite. They promised peace. They said Babylon would never conquer. They said the temple guaranteed safety. They told the people exactly what they wanted to hear.

That's the devil's formula in every generation: when sin is ripe for judgment, flood the pulpits with smooth-tongued prophets promising peace.

II. The Lie – “Ye Shall Have Peace”

Jeremiah 14:13 records the script: *“Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.”*

Assured peace. Guaranteed safety. No judgment, no famine, no sword. Sounds comforting, doesn't it? Too bad it was a lie. God's response in verse 14: *“The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not.”*

That's the hallmark of a false prophet: they invoke God's name to preach man's wish list. They slap “Thus saith the LORD” on their own imaginations. They promise comfort when God has decreed calamity.

And that's exactly what we see today. Preachers assuring sinners they can have peace without repentance, heaven without the cross, blessing without obedience. They preach “assured peace” in this place—whether “this place” is America, a megachurch, or your bank account. And God thunders back: “I sent them not.”

III. The Source – A Lying Heart, Not a Living God

Jeremiah 23:16: *“They speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.”* That's the source of false prophecy: not heaven, but their own heart.

Don't miss that. These prophets weren't necessarily communing with demons. They were communing with themselves. Their sermons were just sanctified wishful thinking. They dreamed of peace, so they preached peace. They longed for prosperity, so they declared prosperity. They mistook their own desires for divine revelation.

That's still the source today. Modern false prophets don't need Ouija boards; they've got imagination. They dream it up, then declare it with authority. "God told me you'll get a raise." "God showed me America will prosper." "God revealed your breakthrough is near." No, God didn't. Their greedy, lying hearts did.

IV. The Method – Healing the Hurt Lightly

Jeremiah 6:14 and 8:11 describe their method: *"They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace."*

Slight healing. Band-Aids on cancer. Sugar pills for fatal disease. Smooth words to numb the pain instead of the scalpel of truth to cure the disease.

That's what false prophets do best: they minimize sin. They downplay judgment. They tell sinners they're "basically good." They assure drunkards, fornicators, sodomites, blasphemers, and rebels that everything's fine. They heal the hurt slightly with words of peace.

But slight healing kills. A wound untreated festers. A sin unrepented grows. A nation unrepented collapses. Judah collapsed because they believed the band-aid preachers instead of the bleeding prophet.

V. The People – Loving the Lie

Jeremiah 5:31 nails it: *"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so."*

That's the tragedy. The people loved the lies. They didn't want Jeremiah's tears, they wanted Hananiah's optimism. They didn't want judgment sermons, they wanted peace sermons. They didn't want repentance, they wanted reassurance.

And that's why God judged them. False prophets are God's test (Deut. 13:3). When the people demand lies, He sends them liars. When they reject truth, He floods them with fakes. When they despise Jeremiah, He drowns them in Hananiahs.

That's America today. Smooth-talking peace-preachers fill arenas because that's what the people love. Lies sell better than truth. Jeremiah's weeping is ignored; prosperity pep rallies are televised. And judgment is marching right behind them.

VI. The Exposure – God’s Word Burns

God doesn’t leave the frauds unchecked. He exposes them. Jeremiah 23:29: *“Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”*

While the peace-preachers murmured lullabies, Jeremiah’s words burned. They scorched. They shattered. That’s the mark of true preaching: it wounds before it heals, it breaks before it builds, it scorches before it comforts.

False prophets despise that kind of preaching. They want smooth words, polished speeches, soft tones. But God’s Word isn’t a feather—it’s a fire. It doesn’t pet sin—it burns it. It doesn’t smooth over rebellion—it shatters it.

That’s why Jeremiah stood out. His words cut. Their words coddled. And in the end, the fire consumed them, not him.

VII. The End – Sword, Famine, Pestilence

Jeremiah 14:15 pronounces their doom: *“Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not... By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.”*

There’s the irony. The very judgments they denied devoured them. They said, “No sword, no famine.” God said, “Sword and famine—for you first.”

That’s the destiny of every peace-preacher. They drown in the flood they said would never come. They choke on the fire they denied. They die by the sword they mocked.

And Judah? Carried away in chains, exactly as Jeremiah said. The temple burned, the city destroyed, the people slaughtered. Peace-preachers buried in the rubble.

VIII. The Modern Peace-Prophets

Now fast-forward. Who are the Jeremiahs, and who are the Hananiahs, in our day?

- **The Prosperity Peddlers.** Promising “breakthroughs” and “seasons of blessing” while judgment looms. Healing the hurt slightly with smiles and sow-a-seed schemes.
- **The Political Preachers.** Blessing nations in rebellion, declaring “God is with us” while blood cries from the ground. Peace-preachers with flags in their pulpits.

- **The Ecumenical Leaders.** Chanting unity, tolerance, coexistence. “Peace, peace”—but no truth, no cross, no repentance.
- **The Social Gospel Clergy.** Preaching activism, reforms, good vibes—while ignoring the sin problem. Offering Band-Aids for cancer.
- **The Liberal Pastors.** Denying hell, judgment, wrath. Preaching God’s love while erasing His holiness.

All of them are Jeremiah 5, 14, and 23 in living color. Their sermons could be plagiarized from Hananiah. And their end will be the same: sword, famine, pestilence, hellfire.

IX. The Contrast – Jeremiah’s Weeping versus Their Smiles

Jeremiah stood alone, weeping, hated, imprisoned. The peace-preachers stood together, applauded, loved, comfortable. But when the dust settled, Jeremiah’s words remained, and their corpses lay in the ruins.

That’s the eternal difference. Truth weeps. Lies smile. Truth hurts. Lies soothe. Truth gets hated. Lies get loved. But truth endures, and lies perish.

Conclusion – Whose Voice Will You Hear?

Jeremiah’s generation is our generation. Peace-preachers still smile while judgment gathers. The crowd still prefers lies to truth. The people still love to have it so.

But God still speaks. His Word is still a fire, still a hammer, still burning, still breaking. And the call is the same: don’t listen to the peace-preachers. Don’t trust the Band-Aid prophets. Don’t love the lies.

Cling to the Book. Cling to Christ. Cling to the truth—even if it makes you weep. Because when Babylon comes, the peace-preachers will be buried, but the Word of the Lord will stand forever.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

11 of 25: Ezekiel’s Vision – False Prophets Whitewashing Walls (Ezekiel 13)

Introduction – Paint Over the Cracks

Nothing describes modern preaching better than Ezekiel 13's image of false prophets slapping whitewash over crumbling walls. God gave Ezekiel a vision of prophets who didn't repair breaches, didn't strengthen foundations, didn't call sinners to repentance. Instead, they grabbed a bucket of white plaster and smeared it over the cracks. Outwardly the wall looked fine. Underneath it was ready to collapse.

That's the job description of false prophets: covering rot with paint. Instead of repairing, they conceal. Instead of warning, they soothe. Instead of truth, they give you cosmetics. They whitewash walls while judgment storms gather overhead.

The passage is blistering. God doesn't just expose the lies of the false prophets—He promises to tear down their painted walls so everyone can see the ruin underneath. And brother, if that doesn't describe the modern church scene with its motivational talks, self-help sermons, prosperity schemes, and watered-down "gospel," I don't know what does.

Let's dig into Ezekiel 13 and see how these spiritual whitewashers operate.

I. The Condemnation – “Woe unto the Foolish Prophets”

Ezekiel 13:3: *“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!”*

Right out of the gate, God calls them foolish. Not wise men. Not seers. Fools. Why? Because they followed their own spirit. They mistook indigestion for inspiration, imagination for revelation. They hadn't seen anything from God, but they acted like they had.

That's still the problem. Preachers today “follow their own spirit.” They craft vision statements, marketing plans, sermon series based on pop psychology or cultural trends. They claim, “God gave me a dream,” when the only dream they had was indigestion at midnight. They've seen nothing—but they act like prophets.

And God says, “Woe.” That's divine judgment language. Not blessing, not prosperity, not applause—woe.

II. The Comparison – Foxes in the Deserts

Verse 4: *“O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.”*

That's a brutal image. Foxes sneak, scavenge, exploit. They don't build; they burrow. They don't protect; they plunder. They don't strengthen the flock; they prey on it.

That's the character of false prophets: predators in the pulpit. They sniff out opportunities for gain. They exploit the weak. They feed on the ruins instead of repairing them. They're opportunists, not shepherds.

That's Joel Osteen smiling like a fox, Creflo Dollar flying in a jet, liberal scholars scavenging faith out of young students, denominational bureaucrats feasting on tithes. Foxes in the deserts.

III. The Failure – Not Standing in the Gap

Verse 5: *“Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD.”*

There it is. The wall had gaps. The hedge had holes. Judgment was coming. The people needed prophets to stand in the gap, warn them, strengthen them. Instead, the prophets whitewashed.

That's the damning failure of false prophets—they won't stand in the gap. They won't confront sin. They won't preach repentance. They won't cry against idolatry. They won't warn of hell. They just smear whitewash to make everything look okay.

And notice the timing: “in the battle in the day of the LORD.” When battle comes, whitewash won't hold. A painted wall won't stop arrows. A plastered crack won't stand against battering rams. Judgment smashes right through the cosmetics.

IV. The Vision – Lying Divinations

Verse 6: *“They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them.”*

That's their method: claiming divine authority for human lies. They stamp “Thus saith the LORD” on their own imaginations. They prophesy visions of vanity—empty dreams, hollow hopes.

And brother, isn't that the same garbage pumped out today? “God told me 2025 is your year of blessing.” “The Lord showed me you're about to step into your destiny.” “Thus saith the LORD: sow a seed of \$1,000 and reap a harvest.” Vanity and lying divinations.

God says they make others “to hope that they would confirm the word.” They prey on desperate people. They manipulate emotions. They dangle hope while selling lies. They're frauds with Bibles.

V. The Whitewash – Walls that Look Fine Until They Fall

Verse 10: *“Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar.”*

There’s the whitewash. Somebody builds a flimsy wall. Instead of fixing it, the false prophets slap plaster on it. Untempered mortar—cheap, weak, cosmetic. It looks strong, but the first storm flattens it.

That’s the picture of false preaching. Instead of fixing sin with repentance and truth, they daub over it with motivational talks. Instead of strengthening faith with the Word, they plaster it with psychology. Instead of preparing people for judgment, they soothe them with “you’re enough, God’s got your back.”

It looks good on Sunday morning. The wall gleams white. The people feel safe. But when the storm comes, it collapses, and the prophets vanish.

VI. The Storm – Rain, Hailstones, and Wind

Verse 11–13: God warns that the storm is coming: *“Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it.”*

That’s judgment. Rain floods the cracks. Hailstones smash the plaster. Wind rips off the cover. The wall crumbles. The whitewash is exposed as worthless.

Brother, that storm is coming for every false prophet’s ministry. The prosperity empire looks impressive until the storm of financial collapse. The ecumenical coalition looks strong until the storm of persecution. The liberal church looks solid until the storm of apostasy. When the storm comes, the walls fall—and the people inside get crushed.

VII. The Exposure – Naked Foundations

Verse 14: *“So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar... and I will uncover it.”*

God promises to expose what’s underneath. Whitewash can’t hide rot forever. Judgment strips off the paint and shows the cracks.

And that's God's way with false prophets. He exposes them. Scandals strip the veneer. Persecution reveals the fraud. Death uncovers the rot. No matter how much paint they smear, the truth comes out.

VIII. The End – No Place in the Assembly

Verse 9 is chilling: *“Mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity... they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel.”*

In other words, they'll be cut off. No inheritance. No place among the people of God. No name in the Book. That's eternal damnation.

That's the destiny of every whitewashing preacher. They may have crowds now, but no place in God's assembly. They may have their names on marquees, but not in the Book of Life. They may paint walls here, but they'll be exposed in eternity.

IX. The Application – Whitewashers Today

The Ezekiel 13 crowd is still alive:

- **The Motivational Speaker.** He whitewashes sin with “you're enough” sermons. Cosmetic preaching for rotting souls.
- **The Prosperity Preacher.** He paints over cracks with “sow a seed” promises. Thin plaster over deep greed.
- **The Ecumenical Pastor.** He whitewashes idolatry with “unity” talk. Pretends Baal and Jehovah can share a wall.
- **The Liberal Scholar.** He daubs over unbelief with intellectual jargon. Paint on a collapsing foundation.
- **The Political Chaplain.** He whitewashes corruption with “God bless our nation” clichés. Paint over bloodstained walls.

Every one of them is a whitewasher, smearing plaster while walls crumble.

X. The Contrast – Ezekiel Versus the Whitewashers

Line it up:

- Ezekiel preached visions from God. They preached visions of their own hearts.
- Ezekiel warned of storms. They promised sunshine.
- Ezekiel exposed cracks. They covered them.
- Ezekiel’s words endure in Scripture. Their words collapsed with their walls.

That’s the difference between God’s prophet and the devil’s whitewashers.

Conclusion – Paint Won’t Stop the Storm

Ezekiel 13 is God’s eternal warning: paint won’t stop the storm. Whitewash won’t hold back hailstones. False comfort won’t cancel judgment.

So don’t trust the whitewashers. Don’t love their smooth sermons. Don’t be impressed by their plastered walls. Judgment is coming. The storm will fall. And when it does, every wall smeared with untempered mortar will crumble, and every false prophet will be exposed.

The only safe wall is truth—the foundation of God’s Word, the mortar of repentance, the bricks of holiness. Build there, or perish with the whitewashers.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

12 of 25: Ezekiel’s Indictment – False Prophets Who Cried Peace, Peace (Ezekiel 22)

Introduction – When the Preachers Join the Crooks

If you want a chapter that reads like today’s headlines, Ezekiel 22 is it. The prophet takes the whole nation of Judah and drags it into court. He lists charges like an indictment: blood in the streets, idolatry in the temples, corruption in the palaces, immorality in the homes. But the darkest charge of all falls squarely on the prophets: they cried “*Peace, peace*” when there was no peace (v. 28).

Instead of warning the people, they whitewashed the nation’s sins. Instead of calling for repentance, they conspired with princes and priests to cover up corruption. They were supposed to stand in the gap, but they sold out for applause, money, and survival. They became spiritual con men selling Band-Aids for cancer.

Brother, if you ever wanted to see what God thinks about smooth-talking preachers who hide sin behind “positive messages,” Ezekiel 22 will scorch the paint right off the walls.

I. The Setting – A Nation Ripe for Judgment

Ezekiel is prophesying in exile. The first waves of Judah's people have already been dragged to Babylon. Jerusalem still stands, but not for long. The city is rotting from the inside out.

The sins are piled high: violence (22:6), bribery (22:12), sexual filth (22:11), oppression of strangers, neglect of the poor, profaning the Sabbath (22:7–8). God calls it a “*bloody city*” (22:2). Judgment is not only deserved, it's overdue.

And in the middle of this cesspool, the prophets were supposed to be the nation's conscience. They were supposed to thunder repentance, cry against sin, call people back to the law of God. Instead, they joined the corruption.

That's where the indictment begins.

II. The Princes – Wolves in High Office

Verse 6: *“Behold, the princes of Israel, every one were in thee to their power to shed blood.”*

The princes weren't ruling; they were devouring. They abused authority for violence and gain. They were wolves in crowns.

That's always how corruption starts—leaders who exploit instead of protect. And when the princes shed blood, the prophets should have cried against it. Instead, they covered for them.

Sound familiar? That's modern politics: leaders guilty of bloodshed—abortion mills, endless wars, corruption in high office—while prophets bless the flag and declare, “Peace.” Prophets on the payroll of princes always cry “peace” when there's blood on the ground.

III. The Priests – Profaning Holy Things

Verse 26: *“Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean.”*

The priests blurred every line. Holy and profane? All the same. Clean and unclean? Doesn't matter. They erased distinctions God had written in stone.

That's the curse of modern religion. Pastors don't preach holiness; they preach tolerance. They don't separate light from darkness; they mix them. They don't cry against sin; they rename it. Profanity becomes "freedom." Idolatry becomes "tradition." Immorality becomes "love."

The priesthood of Ezekiel's day was just as corrupt as ours. They blended holy with profane until nobody could tell the difference.

IV. The Prophets – Whitewashers of Lies

Now the prophets. Verse 28: *“And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.”*

There it is again—the whitewash. They didn't fix the wall; they painted it. They didn't expose sin; they hid it. They slapped plaster over cracks and declared the building safe.

Notice three charges:

1. **They saw vanity.** Their visions were empty. They stared into their own hearts and mistook dreams for revelation.
2. **They divined lies.** They conjured messages from their own imaginations. No truth, just deception.
3. **They forged God's signature.** They said, “Thus saith the LORD” when He hadn't spoken a word.

That's the full anatomy of false prophecy. Empty visions, lying divination, forged authority. And the result? People lulled into complacency while judgment stormed on the horizon.

V. The Cry – “Peace, Peace”

The climax of the charge is their slogan: *“Peace, peace.”* They promised safety in a time of danger, prosperity in a time of poverty, security in a time of siege. They anesthetized the nation.

That's the devil's favorite lullaby. When destruction is imminent, sing the people to sleep with peace songs. When the fire alarm is ringing, drown it out with lullabies. When the sword is drawn, promise prosperity.

That's why God said in Jeremiah 23:17, *"They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace."* False prophets always preach peace to rebels. And God's response is always judgment.

VI. The People – Loving the Lie

It's not just the prophets at fault. Verse 29: *"The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy."*

The people weren't innocent victims. They loved the lies because the lies excused their sins. If the prophet says "peace," you don't have to repent. If the priest says "no difference," you don't have to change. If the prince blesses bloodshed, you don't have to feel guilty.

That's why judgment fell. The prophets lied, yes—but the people wanted lies. That's still the case. America loves prosperity preachers, not because they're deceived, but because they want deception. Smooth lies are more comfortable than sharp truth.

VII. The Search – No Man to Stand in the Gap

Verse 30: *"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."*

God looked for one man to stand. Just one. Jeremiah did, Ezekiel did—but the nation had no appetite for them. The prophets were sellouts. The priests were compromisers. The princes were corrupt. The people were wicked.

And with no man to stand, verse 31: *"Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them... I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath."*

That's the end of every "peace, peace" generation. When no man will stand, God Himself stands—in judgment.

VIII. The Parallels – Ezekiel 22 Today

You'd have to be blind not to see the parallels:

- **Princes shedding blood.** Abortion on demand, wars for profit, violence unchecked.
- **Priests profaning holy things.** Pastors erasing lines between holy and profane. Churches blending truth with error, sin with grace.

- **Prophets whitewashing lies.** TV preachers promising prosperity, ecumenical leaders chanting unity, liberal pastors denying judgment.
- **People loving lies.** Stadiums filled for motivational speeches, not for repentance. Pews packed for smooth words, empty for hard truth.

Ezekiel 22 isn't just history—it's prophecy of our present.

IX. The Contrast – God's Prophet versus the Peace-Prophets

Compare Ezekiel with his rivals:

- Ezekiel thundered judgment; they crooned peace.
- Ezekiel exposed sin; they whitewashed it.
- Ezekiel stood in the gap; they left it empty.
- Ezekiel's words endure; their words crumbled with their walls.

That's the eternal contrast. The true prophet costs you comfort now but saves your soul later. The false prophet soothes you now but damns you forever.

Conclusion – No Peace Without Repentance

Ezekiel 22 is God's eternal indictment against peace-preachers. When sin rots a nation, the prophets who cry "peace" are its worst enemies. They may be applauded, well-fed, popular, and powerful—but they're spiritual murderers.

So here's the call: Don't fall for the whitewash. Don't love the lies. Don't listen to peace-preachers who refuse to mention sin, judgment, repentance, hell, and holiness. There is no peace without repentance. There is no peace without the cross. There is no peace while sin reigns.

When you hear "peace, peace" from men God didn't send, remember Ezekiel 22. Judgment is coming. The storm is gathering. And painted walls won't hold.

Only the blood of Christ gives peace with God (Romans 5:1). Everything else is whitewash destined for collapse.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

13 of 25: Zechariah's Warning – False Prophets and Unclean Spirits (Zechariah 13)

Introduction – The Death of the Prophets of Lies

Zechariah 13 gives you one of the wildest pictures in Scripture: a day coming when false prophets won't be parading on stages, waving microphones, or selling books—they'll be running for cover. Sons will rise up and kill their own lying fathers. Parents will run spears through their own children when they catch them prophesying lies. The smooth preachers who once strutted with pride will rip off their robes and claim, "I'm no prophet, I'm just a farmer. Don't blame me!"

That's the divine forecast: God's people finally so sick of false prophets that they'll purge them out violently. The age of lies will end with the liars destroyed.

But until that day, the false prophets still strut. Zechariah shows you where their power comes from—unclean spirits—and where their end lies—judgment by the very people they deceived. This chapter pulls back the curtain: behind every lying prophet is a devilish spirit. Behind every false message is a demon whisper. And in the end, God will cut off both—the prophet and the spirit that drives him.

I. The Context – Cleansing and Judgment

Zechariah 13 follows chapter 12, which foretells Israel's future repentance when they look upon the One they pierced. Chapter 13 opens with a fountain for sin and uncleanness (v. 1). That's the blood of Christ applied to Israel in the last days. A national cleansing.

But cleansing requires purging. Verse 2: *"I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land... and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land."*

You can't have national repentance while false prophets keep their platforms. You can't have holiness while unclean spirits still preach. God promises to purge both: the idols, the lying prophets, and the spirits behind them.

That's always the pattern: revival requires removal. Before the fountain flows, the fakes must go.

II. The Power Source – Unclean Spirits

Notice the connection: *“the prophets and the unclean spirit”* (v. 2). False prophets aren’t just liars with big imaginations—they’re mouthpieces for unclean spirits. Behind every pulpit of heresy, there’s a devil. Behind every “vision from God” that contradicts Scripture, there’s a demon whispering. Behind every prosperity scam, every false gospel, every ecumenical lie, there’s an unclean spirit running the show.

That blows apart the naïve idea that false prophets are just mistaken. No, they’re energized by hell. That’s why John warns, *“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). False prophets and false spirits are joined at the hip.

You think Benny Hinn waving his coat and knocking people down is just theatrics? There’s a spirit at work. You think Joseph Smith dreaming up Mormonism was just imagination? There was an unclean spirit behind his “angel.” You think Rome’s popes and priests multiplying lies are just misguided? No, brother—that’s spirits of devils (Rev. 16:14). Zechariah ties it together: prophets and unclean spirits work hand in glove.

III. The Exposure – Families Turn on Them

Verses 3–4 are shocking: *“When any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live... and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth.”*

That’s how serious God takes false prophecy. Parents who once beamed with pride at their son “called to the ministry” will run him through when they realize he’s a liar. Family loyalty won’t protect false prophets. Truth will matter more than blood.

And look at verse 4: *“The prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision... neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive.”* They’ll strip off their robes. They’ll be ashamed of their titles. They’ll deny ever being prophets.

That’s the endgame: the very crowds that applauded them will hate them. The very families that supported them will kill them. The very robes that gave them honor will become their shame. God will see to it that their lies backfire.

IV. The Excuses – “I’m No Prophet!”

Verse 5: *“But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.”*

What a reversal. The same men who once strutted, bragging about their “anointing,” will backpedal. “I was never a prophet! I’m just a farmer. I never meant to mislead anybody!” They’ll deny their own ministries to save their skins.

That’s always how it goes. False prophets are bold when they’re safe, cowards when they’re exposed. They roar “Thus saith the LORD” when the crowd cheers, but when the sword comes out, they squeal, “I never said that!”

We’ve seen it already. Cult leaders denying responsibility when their movements collapse. Preachers blaming “the people” when scandals explode. “I’m no prophet! I was misunderstood!” Cowards to the bone.

V. The Wounds – “These Are From a Friend’s House”

Verse 6 is mysterious: *“And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”*

Prophetically, this points to Christ—wounded in the house of His friends, Israel. But in context, it’s also a rebuke of the false prophet. The wounds expose him. He can’t hide. He claims, “These came from my friends’ house,” but the scars testify against him.

That’s the irony: false prophets always leave wounds—on souls, on families, on nations. They scar everyone they touch. And in the end, the scars testify against them.

VI. The Contrast – The True Prophet versus the Fakes

Compare Christ, the True Prophet, with Zechariah’s fakes:

- Christ bore real wounds for truth. They bear wounds for lies.
- Christ never denied who He was. They deny being prophets.
- Christ’s scars are His glory. Their scars are their shame.
- Christ was rejected by His friends but vindicated by resurrection. They’ll be rejected by their friends and buried in disgrace.

Zechariah 13 sets the stage: the fountain of cleansing flows because the false prophets are purged, and the True Prophet is exalted.

VII. The Application – False Prophets in Our Age

Zechariah's vision isn't just for the last days. The pattern fits now:

- **The Prosperity Prophet.** Tied to unclean spirits of greed. His ministry wounds souls with covetousness. When exposed, he cries, "I'm no prophet!"
- **The Ecumenical Prophet.** Driven by unclean spirits of compromise. He scars churches with unity over truth. When judgment falls, he'll strip off his robe and run.
- **The Cult Prophet.** Energized by devils—Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam. Millions scarred. In the end, they'll be ashamed of their lies.
- **The Charismatic Prophet.** Powered by unclean spirits of deception. Wounds believers with empty promises of healing and power. When exposed, he'll claim, "I was misunderstood."
- **The Liberal Prophet.** Inspired by devils of unbelief. Scars students with skepticism. In the end, his words will rot, his legacy shameful.

All of them are tied to unclean spirits. All of them leave wounds. All of them will end in shame.

VIII. The End – Purged by Fire

The chapter closes with refining: two parts cut off, one part brought through the fire (vv. 8–9). False prophets and their followers cut off. The remnant purified.

That's God's plan: purge the lies, refine the faithful, exalt the Truth. False prophets don't get the last word. Christ does. And the blood of the Lamb cleanses what the lies corrupted.

Conclusion – The Day of Reckoning for False Prophets

Zechariah 13 is God's guarantee: the day is coming when false prophets won't strut—they'll hide. They won't boast—they'll deny. They won't wear robes—they'll rip them off. They won't be applauded—they'll be pierced. Their end is shame, judgment, and exposure.

And until that day, the warning is clear: don't be seduced by unclean spirits. Don't follow the prophets of lies. Don't let the smooth words of peace blind you. Cling to the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness—the blood of Christ.

Because only that fountain gives cleansing. Every other stream is poisoned. And every prophet of lies will drown in it.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

14 of 25: False Prophets Among the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 23)

Introduction – The Most Religious Men in Hell

If you asked the average Jew in Christ's day who the holiest men were, they'd point at the Pharisees and Sadducees. Long robes, wide phylacteries, polished speeches, positions of authority—they looked like the spiritual elite. And yet when God Himself walked among them, He didn't pat them on the back. He didn't thank them for their service. He didn't ask them to lead the revival. He tore into them with the sharpest rebuke in the Bible: Matthew 23.

Seven times He thundered "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" He called them blind guides, fools, whited sepulchers, serpents, vipers, children of hell. That's not the language of interfaith dialogue—that's a Holy Ghost flamethrower.

Why? Because they were false prophets in religious garb. They taught lies while claiming Moses' seat. They covered corruption with religious language. They made converts to hell. They were the prototype of every false prophet who hides behind religious authority.

Brother, if you want to see what God thinks about religious fakes, Matthew 23 is the blast furnace. Let's walk through the Lord's indictment and lay bare the Pharisees and Sadducees as the false prophets they were.

I. The Seat of Moses – Authority Without Truth

Matthew 23:2: *"The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat."* That's the first point. They had authority. They had the position. They sat in the place of judgment, teaching the law.

But sitting in Moses' seat didn't make them Moses. Authority without truth is worthless. They wore the robes, but they didn't have the God who gave the law. They were squatters in Moses' chair.

That's always the danger: confusing position with truth. Priests in cathedrals, pastors in pulpits, professors in seminaries—they may have the seat, but that doesn't mean they've got the Book. Authority without obedience to the Word is fraud.

II. The Hypocrisy – Do As They Say, Not As They Do

Verse 3: *“All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.”*

There’s the hypocrisy. They preached law but lived lawless. They bound others with burdens but wouldn’t lift a finger themselves. Their sermons didn’t match their lives.

That’s the essence of false prophecy: double standards. They preach holiness but live in filth. They preach sacrifice but live in luxury. They preach separation but court power. They preach humility but demand applause. They preach truth but practice lies.

Sound familiar? That’s the televangelist preaching against greed while pocketing millions. That’s the priest preaching chastity while covering for pedophiles. That’s the liberal pastor preaching justice while denying Christ. Pharisee hypocrisy never dies—it just changes costumes.

III. The Show – Long Robes, Wide Phylacteries, Big Platforms

Verse 5: *“But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments.”*

Religion for show. They wore Scriptures on their foreheads and arms to look holy. They loved long robes, big platforms, loud prayers. They weren’t serving God; they were advertising themselves.

False prophets always crave attention. They want followers, fame, recognition. They’re performers on a stage, not shepherds in a field. Their ministries are photo ops, not sacrifices.

That’s why Christ called them whited sepulchers: clean on the outside, rotten inside. Beautiful tombs, full of dead men’s bones. That’s every false prophet—polished exterior, corrupt core.

IV. The Blocking – Shutting the Kingdom of Heaven

Verse 13: *“Ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.”*

That’s the deadliest crime. They weren’t just hypocrites—they blocked salvation. Their teachings kept men from Christ. They slammed the door of heaven in sinners’ faces.

That's the mark of every false prophet: he makes converts to hell. He's not neutral; he's a soul damner. The Pharisees turned people into double the children of hell (v. 15). Rome does the same. Islam does the same. Mormonism does the same. Liberal pulpits do the same. Every false religion keeps sinners from the blood of Christ.

And God hates it.

V. The Blindness – Blind Guides, Blind Fools

Verse 16: *“Woe unto you, ye blind guides.”* Verse 17: *“Ye fools and blind.”*

False prophets are blind men leading blind followers into pits. They split hairs over oaths, money, and minutiae, but missed the weightier matters of the law: judgment, mercy, faith (v. 23).

They strained at gnats and swallowed camels. They majored on minors and ignored majors. They tithed herbs while murdering the prophets. They obsessed over tradition while rejecting truth.

And today? Preachers split hairs over denominations while ignoring the gospel. Professors debate textual minutiae while denying inspiration. Pastors fuss over dress codes while ignoring fornication in their pews. Pharisees then, Pharisees now—blind guides leading blind men straight to hell.

VI. The Murderers – Decorating Tombs of Prophets They'd Kill

Verses 29–30: *“Ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.”*

What hypocrisy. They decorated prophets' tombs while plotting to kill the greatest Prophet of all. They claimed they honored the past while murdering the present.

False prophets always do this. They honor dead men of God they would have hated if alive. They claim Luther, Wesley, Spurgeon, Moody—while rejecting their preaching. They quote Scripture while gutting it. They garnish tombs while swinging hammers at living prophets.

Christ nailed them: *“Ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.”* (v. 31–32). And they did—by crucifying Christ.

VII. The Identity – Serpents, Generation of Vipers

Verse 33: *“Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”*

That’s the divine verdict. Not men of God. Not holy leaders. Serpents. Vipers. Poisonous frauds headed for hell. Christ didn’t mince words. He stripped the mask off and showed them for what they were: Satan’s brood.

And that’s the true identity of every false prophet today. Smooth talk, big titles, fancy robes—but serpents inside. Deadly poison behind every sermon. A brood of vipers headed for the damnation of hell.

VIII. The Modern Pharisees and Sadducees

Let’s bring it home. Who are today’s Pharisees and Sadducees?

- **The Roman Priesthood.** Long robes, traditions of men, rituals instead of repentance. Pharisees in Latin.
- **The Prosperity Gurus.** Wide phylacteries in the form of mega-screens and dollar signs. Blind guides preaching greed.
- **The Liberal Professors.** Sadducees denying resurrection, miracles, inspiration—stripping the Book while claiming scholarship.
- **The Ecumenical Leaders.** Pharisees who love greetings in the marketplace, titles of “Reverend,” and seats at interfaith councils.
- **The Cult Prophets.** Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Muslims—all blind guides damning souls.

The names change, the robes change, the gimmicks change—but the spirit is the same. Pharisees and Sadducees never died; they just relocated into every false pulpit.

IX. The Contrast – Christ Versus the Frauds

Put Christ beside them:

- He spoke truth; they spoke lies.
- He served sinners; they exploited them.
- He humbled Himself; they exalted themselves.

- He shed His blood; they shed others' blood.
- He opened heaven; they shut it.

And that's the contrast still today. Christ saves. False prophets damn. Christ sheds blood for peace. False prophets cry peace while sharpening swords. Christ gives life. False prophets spread death.

Conclusion – Beware the Pharisees' Leaven

Matthew 23 is God's eternal warning: the most religious men are often the most dangerous. Pharisees and Sadducees weren't atheists; they were churchmen. They weren't rebels outside the temple; they were leaders inside it. And Christ said they were headed for hell.

So here's the call: don't fall for the robes, the titles, the traditions. Test every spirit by the Book. Don't be seduced by smooth words or pious exteriors. Beware the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Because if Christ ripped into them with "woe, hypocrites, serpents, vipers," you can be sure their modern descendants are just as false, just as blind, just as hell-bound.

And when the Son of Man comes, He won't be handing out applause to Pharisees in pulpits. He'll be handing out damnation to hypocrites who shut up heaven. The false prophets of Matthew 23 prove it: religion without Christ is the road to hell, paved and polished by hypocrites in holy garb.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

15 of 25: Jesus' Warning of False Christs and False Prophets (Matthew 24:24)

Introduction – The Age of Deception

Matthew 24 is Christ's great prophetic discourse. The disciples asked about the end of the world, and the Lord didn't start with earthquakes, wars, or famines. He started with deception: "*Take heed that no man deceive you.*" (Matt. 24:4). By verse 24 He warns: "*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*"

That's the battlefield of the last days—deception. Not open denial, not honest atheism, but slick counterfeits. False Christs mimicking the Messiah. False prophets mimicking God's

men. Great signs and wonders to dazzle the gullible. Deception so slick that if it were possible, even God's elect would be fooled.

Brother, if Christ Himself warned of this with such urgency, you'd better believe it's the greatest threat of our age. Not persecution, not poverty, not politics—deception. Let's walk through this warning and unpack it in the good old scorched-earth fashion.

I. The False Christs – Counterfeit Messiahs

The Lord didn't just warn about vague deception—He named names: false Christs. Not just false teachings, but men claiming to be the Messiah.

History is littered with them. In the first century alone, impostors cropped up promising deliverance from Rome. Later, you had Simon Bar Kokhba, hailed as Messiah by rabbis, leading Israel into disaster in A.D. 135. In the Middle Ages, you had Shabbetai Zevi claiming messiahship in the 1600s, followed by Jacob Frank. In modern times, Sun Myung Moon of the Unification Church claimed to be the “Lord of the Second Advent.” Charles Manson told his followers he was Christ. David Koresh claimed messiahship in Waco.

And that's just the start. Cults thrive on counterfeit Christs. From Mormonism's twisted Jesus to New Age gurus claiming divine status, the parade never ends. The devil keeps cloning Christs because people crave a savior without a cross, a redeemer without repentance, a Messiah without blood.

II. The False Prophets – Mouthpieces for Lies

But the Lord didn't stop with false Christs—He warned of false prophets. These aren't the stars; they're the promoters. They're the hype men, the advertisers, the spin doctors. The false Christ claims to be the Messiah; the false prophet backs him up with signs, wonders, and sermons.

Revelation 13 shows the climax: the Beast (Antichrist) and the False Prophet, a satanic duo. One demands worship, the other enforces it. One sits on the throne, the other wields the microphone. That's where Matthew 24:24 points: a flood of fakes paving the way for the ultimate fraud.

And don't think it's future only. They're here now. Every cult leader, every prosperity peddler, every liberal theologian denying the Book, every smooth-tongued ecumenical bishop calling for unity at the expense of truth—they're all false prophets preparing the stage.

III. The Deception – Signs and Wonders

Here's the kicker: *“shall shew great signs and wonders.”* False prophets don't just talk; they perform. They've got power. Not God's power, but devilish power. 2 Thessalonians 2:9: *“whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”* Revelation 13:13–14: the False Prophet calls fire down from heaven and deceives the world.

That's the scary part. Most people assume miracles prove truth. If someone heals, speaks in tongues, prophesies, or calls fire down, they must be from God. Wrong. The Bible warns that miracles can come from hell just as easily as from heaven. Pharaoh's magicians duplicated Moses' miracles. Deuteronomy 13 warns about prophets doing signs but preaching other gods. Signs prove nothing without truth.

That's where modern Pentecostalism and Charismania stumble. They chase signs, ignore Scripture, and end up in bed with devils. A miracle without the Book is a lie with special effects.

IV. The Reach – Almost the Very Elect

Christ said the deception would be so strong that *“if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”* That's how slick it is. The only reason the elect won't be deceived is because God holds them fast, not because they're smart enough. Left to ourselves, we'd fall for it too.

That ought to scare the pride out of you. If you think you're too sharp to be fooled, you're halfway to deception already. The only safety is clinging to the Book, testing every spirit, trying every prophet by Scripture. Isaiah 8:20: *“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”*

V. The Psychology – Why People Fall for It

Why do false Christs and prophets succeed? Because people want them. They promise what flesh craves:

1. **A Christ without a cross.** Salvation without blood, discipleship without cost.
2. **A kingdom without judgment.** Peace without repentance, heaven without hell.

3. **A prophet without authority.** Smooth words, motivational speeches, no rebuke.
4. **A gospel without exclusivity.** “All roads lead to God.” No offense, no division.

People lap it up because it scratches the itch. Flesh doesn't want repentance; it wants reassurance. Flesh doesn't want holiness; it wants happiness. Flesh doesn't want the Book; it wants feelings. False prophets supply the drug, and sinners overdose on lies.

VI. The Parallel – Then and Now

Think about it: when Christ first came, the Pharisees and Sadducees rejected Him, but false Messiahs popped up all over. When Paul preached, he warned of false apostles and another Jesus (2 Cor. 11:4). John warned of antichrists already in the world (1 John 2:18). The pattern hasn't changed.

- Then: Pharisees shut the kingdom. Now: religious leaders shut the Book.
- Then: false Messiahs promised deliverance from Rome. Now: false Christs promise prosperity, healing, and destiny.
- Then: false prophets said “peace.” Now: false preachers say “God loves you just as you are.”
- Then: lying wonders deceived crowds. Now: fake healings, tongues, and visions dazzle gullible pews.

Matthew 24 isn't future only—it's present, and it's ramping up for the final act.

VII. The Antichrist – The Ultimate False Christ

All roads in Matthew 24 lead to one figure: the Antichrist. The ultimate counterfeit. A man who'll sit in the temple of God, showing himself as God (2 Thess. 2:4). A global ruler backed by signs, wonders, and the False Prophet's propaganda. He'll unite religion, politics, and economics under one banner. He'll promise peace, prosperity, safety—and deliver hell.

That's the climax of false prophecy. Every cult, every prosperity scam, every ecumenical compromise is rehearsal for that day. When he comes, the world will cheer. Only the Book and the Spirit will keep the elect from falling.

VIII. The Safeguard – Watch, Test, Endure

So what's the defense? Christ gave it: *"Take heed that no man deceive you."* (Matt. 24:4).

- **Watch.** Stay alert. False prophets multiply in the last days. Don't assume every preacher with a Bible is true.
- **Test.** Try the spirits by Scripture. If it doesn't line up with the Book, toss it.
- **Endure.** Don't chase signs, wonders, dreams, or feelings. Cling to Christ, His cross, His Word. Endure the unpopularity of truth.

That's the only safeguard. Not intelligence, not experience, not feelings—Scripture. The Book is your anchor when signs dazzle and prophets lie.

IX. The Modern Parade of False Christs and Prophets

Let's get practical. Where do we see Matthew 24:24 today?

- **Cult Leaders.** Sun Myung Moon, David Koresh, Jim Jones—all claiming Christ-like authority, damning souls by the thousands.
- **Prosperity Preachers.** Promising miracles for money, healing for donations. Signs and wonders galore, but no gospel.
- **Charismatic Prophets.** Dreamers on YouTube declaring visions of Trump, wars, and wealth. All false, all vain, all devil-fed.
- **Ecumenical Bishops.** Calling for one-world unity, blurring lines between Christ and antichrist.
- **Liberal Scholars.** Redefining Jesus as a moral teacher, denying His blood, His deity, His resurrection. A false Christ of academia.

Everywhere you look, false Christs and false prophets are multiplying. The stage is set for the final one.

X. The Contrast – The True Christ

Line Him up against the fakes:

- False Christs promise prosperity. The true Christ promises a cross.
- False prophets dazzle with signs. The true Christ saves with blood.
- False Christs exalt themselves. The true Christ humbled Himself to death.

- False prophets damn souls. The true Christ saves them.
- False Christs die in shame. The true Christ rose in glory.

That's the difference. Counterfeits glitter, the real thing bleeds. Counterfeits deceive, the real thing delivers. Counterfeits damn, the real thing saves.

Conclusion – Don't Be Fooled

Jesus' warning in Matthew 24:24 is sharper now than ever: false Christs and false prophets are everywhere. They dazzle with signs, deceive with words, promise peace without repentance. Their deception is so slick that if God didn't hold the elect, even they'd fall.

So don't be fooled. Don't chase signs. Don't trust smooth talk. Don't fall for ecumenical unity. Don't run after cult leaders, prosperity peddlers, or liberal scholars.

Cling to Christ crucified and risen. Cling to the Book. Cling to the Spirit. Because in a world of false Christs, there's only one true: Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, the Lamb slain, the King returning.

And when He comes, every false Christ will bow. Every false prophet will burn. And every believer who clung to the truth will shine forever.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

16 of 25: Elymas the Sorcerer – False Prophet Who Resisted the Gospel (Acts 13)

Introduction – When a Magician Meets a Preacher

Acts 13 gives us one of the clearest collisions between truth and lies in the New Testament. Paul and Barnabas are on their first missionary journey. They've sailed into Cyprus, carrying the gospel into new territory. The governor, Sergius Paulus, is curious—he wants to hear the word of God. And right there, slithering into the spotlight, comes Elymas the sorcerer, a false prophet.

That's the setup: a hungry sinner seeking light, a preacher carrying truth, and a fraud trying to block it. Elymas resisted the gospel, not by open debate alone, but by deception, sorcery, and influence. He's a prototype of every false prophet who stands between sinners and the Savior.

And what happens? Paul, filled with the Holy Ghost, unleashes one of the fiercest rebukes in the Bible: *“O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?”* (Acts 13:10). Then God strikes Elymas blind on the spot.

Brother, that’s how God feels about false prophets. He doesn’t pat them on the head. He doesn’t negotiate. He exposes them as devil’s children and blinds them for their lies. Elymas is a case study in the anatomy of a false prophet—and in how the gospel crushes deception.

I. Elymas the Sorcerer – His Identity

Acts 13:6 introduces him: *“a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus.”* Three identifiers right there:

1. **A sorcerer.** He trafficked in magic, spells, occult power. Not harmless tricks, but satanic deception. Sorcery in the Bible is always tied to devils (Deut. 18:10–12, Rev. 21:8). Elymas wasn’t just a magician—he was demonized.
2. **A false prophet.** He claimed spiritual authority, probably presenting himself as a messenger of God. He wasn’t an atheist; he was religious. He blended Jewish heritage with sorcery and presented himself as a prophet.
3. **Bar-jesus.** His name means “son of Jesus” or “son of Joshua.” That’s the ultimate counterfeit. He wore a name that sounded like salvation while preaching damnation.

That’s the blueprint of every false prophet: spiritual-sounding names, religious credentials, occult power, but all in the service of hell.

II. His Opposition – Standing Against the Gospel

Verse 8: *“But Elymas the sorcerer... withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.”*

There’s his mission: block the sinner from the Savior. He didn’t care about Sergius Paulus’ soul. He cared about influence, money, and power. If the governor turned to Christ, Elymas lost his job, his prestige, and his control.

So he resisted. Not with open swords, but with subtlety. He whispered doubts, raised objections, twisted truth, offered counterfeits. His goal was to “turn away” the man from

faith. That's what every false prophet does. They don't always try to destroy faith outright—they redirect it. Turn it away from Christ to religion, works, philosophy, cults, or superstition. Anything but the gospel.

III. Paul's Rebuke – Child of the Devil

Now watch the Holy Ghost fury. Verse 9–10: *“Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?”*

That's the ultimate unmasking:

- **Full of subtilty.** He wasn't clumsy; he was slick. Deception was his art.
- **Full of mischief.** He didn't just make mistakes; he was malicious.
- **Child of the devil.** Forget “man of God”—Paul says, “You're Satan's brat.”
- **Enemy of righteousness.** He wasn't neutral. He opposed everything good and holy.
- **Perverter of the right ways of the Lord.** He twisted truth into lies.

That's not polite debate—that's Holy Ghost demolition. Paul didn't tolerate him. He blasted him. And notice: the Spirit filled Paul right before he spoke. Harsh rebuke isn't “un-Christlike”—it's Spirit-filled when aimed at devilish deceivers.

IV. The Judgment – Blindness

Verse 11: *“And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season.”* Immediately a mist and darkness fell on him.

What a judgment. Elymas, who blinded others spiritually, is blinded physically. He who kept men in darkness now stumbles in darkness. God gave him an outward picture of his inward condition.

That's poetic justice. Every false prophet is spiritually blind. God just made it visible. And that's their destiny—stumbling until they fall into hellfire, where the darkness is eternal. Elymas' blindness is just a preview.

V. The Result – Faith Triumphs

Verse 12: *“Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.”*

That’s the punchline. Elymas lost, the gospel won. The governor believed—not because of the miracle alone, but because of the doctrine. The truth triumphed over lies.

That’s the comfort for us. False prophets resist, deceive, oppose—but they can’t stop the gospel. The Spirit and the Book cut through their sorcery. The truth always stands when lies collapse.

VI. The Anatomy of a False Prophet

From Elymas’ story, we learn what marks every false prophet:

1. **Occult connections.** Sorcery, mysticism, hidden powers. False prophets often flirt with the occult, even when cloaked in religion.
2. **Religious disguise.** Elymas was a Jew with a holy-sounding name. False prophets hide under robes and titles.
3. **Blocking sinners.** Their main goal is to stop people from trusting Christ.
4. **Subtilty.** They twist words, raise doubts, sow confusion.
5. **Satanic parentage.** They may look religious, but their father is the devil (John 8:44).
6. **Judgment.** God blinds and damns them. Their end is sure.

That’s the anatomy. Every fraud from Genesis to Revelation fits it.

VII. The Modern Elymases

Don’t leave it in the first century. Elymas is alive today—just with different robes.

- **The Prosperity Sorcerer.** He dazzles crowds with fake miracles and flashy shows. He resists the gospel by selling blessing for cash.
- **The Cult Leader.** He twists Scripture, invents visions, and blocks followers from Christ. Mormon prophets, Watchtower leaders, Islamic imams—all Elymases.
- **The Liberal Scholar.** He resists the gospel by casting doubt on the Book. He blinds students with philosophy and lies.

- **The Ecumenical Preacher.** He resists the gospel by blending truth with error, telling sinners all roads lead to God.
- **The New Age Guru.** He traffics in occult practices, yoga mysticism, and spiritism. Same sorcery, new packaging.

Every one of them is Elymas with a facelift. Same spirit, same mission: resist the gospel, block the sinner, blind the soul.

VIII. The Application – How to Deal with Them

Paul shows the method:

- **Be filled with the Spirit.** Don't confront in fleshly anger; confront in Holy Ghost power.
- **Expose their nature.** Call them what they are—children of the devil, enemies of righteousness. Don't sugarcoat.
- **Proclaim the truth.** Don't just rebuke—preach the doctrine of the Lord. That's what saves.
- **Leave judgment to God.** Paul didn't invent the blindness. God struck Elymas. Sometimes God judges false prophets immediately; sometimes He waits. But the end is His.

That's how you deal with Elymas today. Bold Spirit-filled preaching, sharp rebuke, clear gospel proclamation, and leaving judgment in God's hands.

IX. The Contrast – Elymas versus Paul

Set them side by side:

- Elymas trafficked in sorcery; Paul preached Scripture.
- Elymas resisted; Paul rebuked.
- Elymas blinded others; Paul opened eyes.
- Elymas was struck blind; Paul brought light.
- Elymas was Satan's child; Paul was God's servant.

That's the eternal contrast. The gospel exposes every false prophet as counterfeit.

Conclusion – The Sorcerer in the Dark

Elymas' story is short but devastating. One moment he's strutting in power, resisting the gospel. The next he's stumbling in darkness, judged as a child of the devil. That's the fate of every false prophet.

So here's the call: don't be dazzled by sorcery, signs, or smooth words. Don't let Elymas block you from Christ. Don't tolerate frauds who pervert the right ways of the Lord. Stand with Paul—Spirit-filled, Book-preaching, soul-winning—and watch God's truth blind the liars and save the hungry.

Because in the end, every Elymas ends in darkness. But every Sergius Paulus who believes ends in light. That's the gospel's victory.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

17 of 25: The Spirit of Divination – A False Prophetess in Philippi (Acts 16)

Introduction – When the Devil Tells the Truth

Acts 16 drops you into Philippi, a Roman colony buzzing with commerce and culture. Paul and Silas arrive with the gospel, and what happens? The devil greets them. Not with a sword, but with a sermon. A young woman possessed with "*a spirit of divination*" dogs their steps, crying out: "*These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.*" (Acts 16:17).

At first glance, she sounds like a street preacher endorsing Paul. But the Spirit of God wasn't impressed. After days of this, Paul turned, rebuked the devil, and cast it out. What looked like free advertising was actually satanic interference. The devil can quote truth when it suits his agenda—but it's still a lie in disguise.

That's the warning of Acts 16: the spirit of divination. A false prophetess who mixed truth with devilish power. She's the poster child of every religious fraud who flatters preachers, mimics truth, and hides demonic bondage under the language of salvation.

I. Her Identity – A Slave with a Spirit

Acts 16:16 says she was “*a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying.*”

Three strikes:

1. **A slave girl.** She wasn't free. Her body belonged to her masters, and her spirit belonged to the devil. That's the double slavery of false prophets—enslaved to men and to Satan.
2. **Possessed with a spirit.** Not imagination, not mental illness, but literal demon possession. Scripture doesn't mince words. She had a devil in her.
3. **Used for profit.** Her “gift” made money for her handlers. That's the business of false prophecy—profit off deception.

That's the core of the spirit of divination: bondage, demonic control, and money. Sound familiar? That's modern religion's trifecta.

II. Her Message – Truth as a Trap

Verse 17 records her cry: “*These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.*”

Now think about that. Was it true? Yes. Paul and Silas were God's servants. They were preaching salvation. So why was it wrong? Because of the source. The devil was speaking truth to deceive.

That's the danger—Satan doesn't always deny truth; sometimes he parrots it. He tells enough truth to gain credibility, then slips in poison. He quoted Scripture to Christ in the wilderness (Matt. 4). The damsel quoted truth in Philippi. Modern false prophets do the same—use the Bible as camouflage while preaching lies.

Her message was designed to muddy the waters. If Paul accepted her endorsement, the gospel would look tied to her soothsaying. Truth and lies blended. That's the devil's tactic: mix the gospel with spirits, philosophy, or superstition until nobody knows the difference.

III. Her Persistence – Many Days of Distraction

Verse 18: “*And this did she many days.*” Not one shout, not one moment—but many days of interference.

That's how the devil works. He doesn't always attack head-on. Sometimes he nags, distracts, irritates. He shadows gospel work with confusion. Every time Paul tried to preach, there she was, hollering. Not stopping him, but distracting him.

False prophets thrive on distraction. They don't always preach new religions; sometimes they just muddy the water enough to slow the gospel. They're hecklers in the crowd, influencers online, "friendly" voices that flatter and derail. They waste time and energy until preachers confront them.

IV. Paul's Rebuke – Authority in the Name of Jesus

Finally Paul had enough. Verse 18: *"But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her."*

That's power. Not psychology. Not negotiation. Not compromise. Authority in the name of Christ. And immediately the spirit came out.

Notice the chain of command:

- Paul didn't rebuke the girl—he rebuked the spirit. He knew the real enemy.
- He didn't use magic words—he invoked Christ's name. Not as a formula, but as the authority of the risen Lord.
- He didn't get gradual victory—the spirit left that same hour.

That's the only cure for false prophecy: the power of Christ. Not debate clubs, not interfaith dialogues, not diplomacy. Cast out the lie in the name of Jesus.

V. The Fallout – Money Lost, Rage Gained

Verse 19: *"When her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas."*

There's the real motive exposed: money. They didn't care about the girl's soul. They cared about the profit. The moment the demon left, the business collapsed. No devil, no dollars.

And brother, that's the same today. Prosperity preachers rage when the gospel exposes their scam. Cult leaders rage when Christ frees their slaves. Religious empires rage when truth cuts into their profits. Money is always the fuel behind false prophecy.

Paul and Silas got beaten and thrown into prison. Why? Because they destroyed a false prophetess' business model. That's how the world rewards men who stand against devilish religion.

VI. The Anatomy of the Spirit of Divination

What do we learn about this spirit?

1. **It enslaves.** False prophecy always binds souls, never frees them.
2. **It profits.** Someone always makes money off deception.
3. **It mimics truth.** It says just enough to sound right while hiding lies.
4. **It distracts.** It dogs the steps of gospel preachers, hindering the work.
5. **It angers when exposed.** Cast it out, and the handlers riot.

That's the anatomy of the spirit of divination. Recognize it, and you'll see it everywhere—from Philippi to modern pulpits.

VII. The Modern Spirit of Divination

This spirit didn't die in Philippi. It just changed clothes. Where do you see it today?

- **Psychics and Mediums.** Modern soothsayers who profit from "divination." Same spirit, same lies, same money.
- **Prosperity Preachers.** Selling "prophetic words" for donations. A spirit of divination wrapped in Christian language.
- **Charismatic Prophetesses.** Women claiming visions and revelations, distracting congregations with babble.
- **New Age Gurus.** Blending truth with occult power, enslaving seekers while profiting.
- **Cult Leaders.** Mixing Scripture with lies, enslaving followers, profiting off devotion.

Every one of them is that Philippian damsel reborn—crying truth with a devil behind the voice.

VIII. The Contrast – Gospel Versus Divination

Set them side by side:

- The spirit of divination enslaves. The gospel frees.
- The spirit of divination profits from bondage. The gospel breaks chains without charge.
- The spirit of divination mimics truth. The gospel is truth.
- The spirit of divination distracts. The gospel delivers.
- The spirit of divination ends in riot and rage. The gospel ends in salvation and joy (Acts 16:31–34).

That's the eternal contrast. One dams souls. The other delivers them.

IX. The Deeper Lesson – The Devil's Strategy

Why did the devil let the damsel speak truth? Because he wanted to control the narrative. If Paul accepted her endorsement, the gospel would look tied to demons. The devil's plan wasn't to deny truth—it was to hijack it.

That's the devil's favorite strategy. Not always to oppose outright, but to infiltrate. To wrap himself in light (2 Cor. 11:14). To cloak lies in truth. To put a devil in a prophetess who sounds like a Christian. That's more dangerous than open atheism.

Conclusion – Cast Out the Spirit

Acts 16 is God's eternal warning: don't trust every voice that shouts truth. Test the spirits. Behind some "prophetic" voices are unclean spirits. Behind some endorsements is the devil himself.

The spirit of divination still dogs gospel preachers, still profits off deception, still mimics truth. But the same Christ who freed that damsel is still Lord today. His name still breaks chains, still casts out devils, still exposes lies.

So here's the call: Don't be fooled by truth in a devil's mouth. Don't be distracted by flattery from a false prophetess. Don't bow to the rage of those who profit from lies. Stand like Paul—grieved, bold, Spirit-filled—and cast out the spirit of divination in the name of Jesus Christ.

Because in the end, the damsel was freed, the devil was exposed, and the gospel triumphed. And that's still how the story ends.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

18 of 25: False Prophets in Corinth – Satan's Ministers Masquerading (2 Corinthians 11:13–15)

Introduction – Angels in Drag

Paul didn't mince words when he exposed the frauds slithering into the Corinthian church. He called them *“false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.”* (2 Cor. 11:13). Then he pulled the mask all the way off: *“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.”* (vv. 14–15).

There it is. Satan doesn't always show up with horns, a pitchfork, and sulfur smoke. Sometimes he shows up with a halo, a robe, and a Bible tucked under his arm. His ministers don't look like devils—they look like preachers. They don't deny Christ outright—they masquerade as His apostles. They don't come with pitch-black lies—they come with half-truths wrapped in light.

That's the deadliest deception: not the open atheist, but the counterfeit apostle. Not the nightclub singer, but the pulpit star. Not the satanist, but the smiling “Christian leader.” And Corinth was crawling with them.

Paul lays down the gauntlet in this passage: Satan's ministers are disguised, dangerous, and doomed. And you'd better believe they're still alive today, running churches, writing books, teaching in seminaries, and fooling millions.

I. The Context – A Church Drunk on Show

The Corinthian church was carnal to the core. They loved showmanship, wisdom, oratory. They craved flashy teachers. They despised Paul's plain, blunt preaching. So when false apostles strutted in—well-dressed, smooth-tongued, confident—they were starstruck.

Paul calls them “super-apostles” sarcastically (2 Cor. 11:5). The Corinthians swallowed their act. These frauds claimed visions, authority, and eloquence. They belittled Paul as weak and unimpressive. And the church went along with it.

That's the soil false prophets thrive in: churches that love show over substance, polish over power, charisma over Christ. Corinth wasn't unique. That's every megachurch today.

II. The Fraud – False Apostles

Verse 13: *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.”*

Look at the anatomy:

- **False apostles.** They claimed apostolic authority, but had none. They were self-appointed, not God-sent.
- **Deceitful workers.** They weren't just mistaken—they were deliberate deceivers. They worked hard at it, laboring in lies.
- **Transforming themselves.** They weren't transformed by Christ; they transformed themselves into counterfeits.

That's the formula: self-appointed authority, deliberate deception, polished disguise. It worked in Corinth; it works now.

III. The Pattern – Satan's Masquerade

Verse 14 is the key: *“Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”*

That's Satan's pattern. He doesn't sell sin as sin—he sells it as light. He doesn't show up as darkness—he shows up as brilliance. He doesn't tempt you with devils—he tempts you with “angels.”

Think about Eden. The serpent didn't say, “Come sin and die.” He said, “Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” He packaged rebellion as enlightenment. That's angel-of-light stuff.

And that's what he still does: he sells lies as wisdom, rebellion as freedom, heresy as scholarship, damnation as salvation. He comes glowing, not growling. And his ministers do the same.

IV. The Ministers – Preachers of Righteousness

Verse 15: *“Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness.”*

That's the punch. Satan's ministers don't look like witches—they look like pastors. They don't wear pentagrams—they wear crosses. They don't chant curses—they preach sermons. They aren't outside the church—they're in pulpits.

And what do they preach? Righteousness. Not open wickedness, but works-righteousness. Not "sin boldly," but "be good and earn salvation." That's the deadliest gospel—the gospel of works. Paul warned of "another Jesus" and "another gospel" (2 Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:6–9). Satan's ministers don't usually preach open atheism—they preach religion without the cross.

That's Roman Catholic priests preaching sacraments. That's liberal pastors preaching social justice. That's prosperity preachers promising blessing for tithes. That's cult leaders demanding obedience to their rules. Ministers of "righteousness"—but not God's righteousness through Christ.

V. The Danger – Gullible Churches

The tragedy is how gullible churches are. The Corinthians swallowed the frauds whole. They bragged on their "eloquence," tolerated their "bondage," and despised Paul's plainness (2 Cor. 11:20).

That's churches today. They love polished TED-talk preachers. They love big productions, soft sermons, smooth voices. They despise blunt Bible preaching. They'd rather have Satan's minister in a silk suit than God's man in rags.

And Paul warned: no marvel. Don't be surprised. Satan's ministers are supposed to look good. If you expect them to wear black robes and chant Latin backward, you'll miss them. They come smiling, educated, respectable. And gullible churches hand them pulpits.

VI. The End – Damnation

Verse 15 ends: "*whose end shall be according to their works.*"

That's the final nail. They may look righteous, but God will judge them by their works. And their works are deception, bondage, heresy, soul-damnation. Their end is hell.

That's the certainty. Satan's ministers don't win in the end. They may fill arenas now, but they'll fill hell later. They may masquerade now, but the mask burns off in judgment.

VII. The Modern Masquerade

Let's call names. Where do we see Satan's ministers today?

- **Prosperity Peddlers.** Smiling faces on TV promising wealth for offerings. Ministers of "righteousness" selling greed.
- **Roman Catholic Priests.** Preaching sacraments, works, Mary, purgatory. Ministers of "righteousness" damning millions.
- **Islamic Imams.** Preaching obedience, rules, jihad. Ministers of "righteousness" denying Christ.
- **Mormon Prophets and JW Leaders.** Preaching false Christs, false gospels, endless rules. Ministers of "righteousness."
- **Liberal Pastors.** Denying inspiration, virgin birth, resurrection. Preaching morality and activism instead of salvation.
- **Ecumenical Bishops.** Calling for unity, tolerance, love—but at the expense of truth. Ministers of "righteousness" paving the way for Antichrist.

Every one of them is a minister of Satan, masquerading in light. Don't be fooled by the robes, titles, or numbers.

VIII. The Contrast – Paul Versus the Frauds

Compare Paul with Satan's ministers:

- They exalt themselves; Paul humbled himself.
- They enslaved; Paul set free.
- They preached another gospel; Paul preached Christ crucified.
- They masqueraded; Paul was transparent.
- They sought applause; Paul sought truth.

That's always the contrast. God's men may look weak, poor, unimpressive. Satan's men look polished, rich, eloquent. But truth isn't in appearances—it's in the Book.

IX. The Application – How to Spot the Masquerade

How do you keep from being fooled? Test everything by Scripture.

- If a preacher adds works to the gospel, he's a minister of Satan.
- If he denies Christ's deity, blood, resurrection, or second coming, he's a minister of Satan.
- If he preaches unity without truth, he's a minister of Satan.
- If he dazzles with show but ignores sin, he's a minister of Satan.

Don't be gullible like Corinth. Don't fall for smiles, robes, or eloquence. Test by the Book. If it doesn't line up, throw it out.

Conclusion – Don't Fall for Angels in Drag

2 Corinthians 11:13–15 rips the mask off Satan's strategy. His ministers don't look like devils—they look like apostles. They preach not open wickedness, but fake righteousness. They masquerade as light while damning souls to hell.

So don't marvel. Don't be naïve. Don't fall for angels in drag. The only safety is the Book, the cross, and the Spirit.

Because at the end of the day, every masquerading minister of Satan will burn. Their end will be according to their works. But every sinner who clings to Christ's righteousness, not their own, will shine forever.

That's the difference. Fraud or faith. Masquerade or Messiah. Works that damn or grace that saves.

Choose wisely.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

19 of 25: Hymenaeus and Philetus – False Prophets of Doctrinal Error (2 Timothy 2:17–18)

Introduction – When Bad Doctrine Eats Like Cancer

Paul wasn't shy about naming names. He didn't just warn of vague heresies; he called out the men teaching them. In 2 Timothy 2:17–18, he fires straight at two wolves: Hymenaeus

and Philetus. He says their word will “*eat as doth a canker*” (that’s cancer), and their crowning heresy was this: “*saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.*”

There you have it. Not drunks, not fornicators, not idolaters—doctrinal frauds. They weren’t selling women on street corners; they were selling lies in pulpits. And the damage wasn’t small. Their words spread like gangrene, corroding the body of Christ. They didn’t just confuse folks—they overthrew faith.

That’s the danger of doctrinal error. It may look harmless, just a “different perspective.” But once it lodges in the body, it spreads, festers, devours. Hymenaeus and Philetus are the case study in why you don’t play footsie with false doctrine.

I. The Men – Named and Shamed

Paul had no problem dropping names. Hymenaeus shows up earlier in 1 Timothy 1:20, where Paul says he “delivered [him] unto Satan, that [he] may learn not to blaspheme.” That’s how serious this guy’s error was—Satan got visitation rights. Philetus shows up only here, but the association with Hymenaeus is enough: birds of a feather flock together.

These weren’t outsiders; they were insiders. Church men. Professors of truth who twisted it. Their crime wasn’t immorality but heresy. That’s worse, because heresy multiplies and spreads. A fornicator corrupts a few. A heretic corrupts whole churches.

And Paul doesn’t tiptoe. He doesn’t say “these dear brothers may be mistaken.” He brands them as blasphemers and cancer cells. That’s apostolic surgery.

II. The Message – Resurrection Already Past

Their central lie? “*The resurrection is past already.*”

Now what does that mean? Most likely they spiritualized the resurrection. They claimed the only resurrection was spiritual—being “raised with Christ” at salvation (Col. 3:1). They denied a future bodily resurrection. That undercut the hope of believers, emptied the promises of Christ, and denied the core of the gospel.

Remember 1 Corinthians 15? Paul made it plain: if there’s no resurrection, Christ is not risen, your faith is vain, and you’re yet in your sins. Resurrection is non-negotiable. You deny the future resurrection, you gut Christianity.

That's the cancer of Hymenaeus and Philetus: a spiritualized, allegorized, already-past resurrection. Sound familiar? That's preterism today. That's liberal theology today. That's Jehovah's Witnesses denying bodily resurrection. The lie mutates but never dies.

III. The Effect – Faith Overthrown

Paul says their doctrine “*overthrew the faith of some.*” That's the tragic fruit. People who once believed in the blessed hope lost it. Their confidence in Christ's return crumbled. Their assurance of resurrection vanished. Their faith collapsed under doctrinal cancer.

That's what heresy does. It doesn't just create interesting debates—it topples souls. People quit believing. They walk away. They despair. Doctrine is life or death. Hymenaeus and Philetus didn't just preach a different take; they sabotaged saints.

IV. The Comparison – Cancer in the Body

Paul's metaphor is brutal: “*their word will eat as doth a canker.*” That's cancer. Gangrene. Rot. Once it starts, it doesn't stop. It spreads. It kills.

That's what false doctrine is. It never stays in one corner. It spreads through pews, families, generations. One preacher denies resurrection, another denies hell, another denies inspiration, another denies the blood. Before long, whole denominations rot.

You don't treat cancer with tolerance. You don't dialogue with gangrene. You cut it out. Paul didn't cuddle Hymenaeus—he delivered him to Satan. That's surgery. That's how you deal with doctrinal cancer.

V. The Source – Satanic Inspiration

Don't miss the spiritual dimension. Hymenaeus was delivered to Satan because his doctrine came from Satan. 1 Timothy 4:1 says “*some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*”

That's what heresy is: not just human opinion, but demonic doctrine. Satan whispers lies, men repeat them, and churches collapse. Denying resurrection isn't intellectual error—it's devil's doctrine.

That's why Paul calls Hymenaeus a blasphemer. He wasn't just mistaken; he was channeling hell.

VI. The Counter – The Foundation of God

But Paul doesn't leave Timothy trembling. In the very next verse, he says: *“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his.”* (2 Tim. 2:19).

False prophets may overthrow the faith of some, but they can't overthrow God's foundation. The elect are secure. The church survives. The Word endures. Heretics fall, but truth stands.

That's the balance. We take heresy seriously, but we don't panic. Hymenaeus may spread cancer, but God's foundation won't crack. His sheep won't be lost. His Word won't fail.

VII. The Modern Hymenaeuses and Philetuses

These two clowns have plenty of spiritual offspring.

- **The Preterists.** Saying the resurrection is past, spiritualized. Exact same lie in modern dress.
- **The Jehovah's Witnesses.** Denying bodily resurrection, preaching a spiritual “resurrection” of Christ. Straight from Hymenaeus' playbook.
- **The Liberals.** Teaching “resurrection” as metaphor, not fact. Empty tomb? No, just “Christ lives on in our hearts.” Same garbage.
- **The Cults.** Mormonism twisting resurrection into exaltation. Christian Science denying reality. All variations of the same cancer.
- **The Seminary Professors.** Mocking bodily resurrection as myth while cashing paychecks from “Christian” institutions. Hymenaeus in tweed jackets.

Every one of them is Hymenaeus and Philetus reborn—denying resurrection, overthrowing faith, spreading cancer.

VIII. The Contrast – Paul's Gospel

Put Paul against them:

- They said resurrection past. Paul said resurrection future.

- They said no bodily hope. Paul said “this corruptible must put on incorruption” (1 Cor. 15:53).
- They spread despair. Paul spread hope.
- They blasphemed. Paul preached Christ risen.

That’s the line. Either you’re with Paul or with Hymenaeus. Either you preach resurrection hope or you preach cancer.

IX. The Application – How to Fight the Cancer

What do we learn?

1. **Name names.** Paul did. Don’t hide behind vague warnings. Call heretics out.
2. **Guard doctrine.** Don’t treat resurrection as optional. Guard the core truths: Christ’s deity, blood, resurrection, second coming.
3. **Cut cancer.** Don’t tolerate false teaching in pulpits or seminaries. Remove it before it spreads.
4. **Cling to the foundation.** Don’t panic when heretics rise. God’s foundation stands sure.
5. **Preach the Word.** The cure for heresy is truth proclaimed in power.

That’s how you fight Hymenaeus and Philetus today.

Conclusion – Blasphemers Bound for Hell

Hymenaeus and Philetus stand as eternal warnings. They weren’t drunks or thieves—they were teachers. And their doctrine was cancer. They denied the resurrection, overthrew faith, spread blasphemy. Paul delivered them to Satan. Their end was destruction.

And every modern Hymenaeus will meet the same end. Preterists, liberals, cultists, professors—deny resurrection, and you deny Christ. Spread doctrinal cancer, and you’ll be cut off.

So here’s the call: Don’t toy with heresy. Don’t tolerate it in pulpits. Don’t dabble with teachers who spiritualize truth. Cling to the gospel: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Cor. 15:3–4). Cling to the hope: the dead in Christ shall rise, and we shall be changed (1 Thess. 4:16–17).

That's the faith Hymenaeus tried to overthrow. That's the faith that still stands when heretics fall. That's the faith that saves, secures, and shatters every cancerous lie.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

20 of 25: The Great Apostasy – False Prophets Teaching Doctrines of Devils (1 Timothy 4:1)

Introduction – When the Spirit Speaks Plainly

Paul doesn't stutter in 1 Timothy 4:1. He doesn't leave it vague, doesn't leave it open-ended, doesn't suggest it might happen. He declares it straight: "*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.*"

That's not Paul's opinion. That's not church tradition. That's the Spirit of God speaking expressly—plainly, clearly, without wiggle room. And what does He say? The last days won't be marked by revival, but by apostasy. Not mass conversions, but mass departures. Not sound doctrine, but devil's doctrine.

That's the great apostasy. It's not a possibility. It's a guarantee. And brother, you and I are living in it right now.

I. The Departure – Some Shall Depart from the Faith

The prophecy starts with desertion: "*some shall depart from the faith.*"

Notice—it's not "the world rejecting religion." That's expected. It's people inside the camp walking away. They had the faith, they professed the truth, they sat in the pews—but they deserted. They departed from *the faith*—that body of truth delivered to the saints.

That's the tragedy. Apostasy is an inside job. It's not Rome outside persecuting; it's professors inside perverting. It's not atheists mocking; it's Christians compromising. It's seminaries corrupting the Book. It's pulpits turning soft. It's Christians "progressing" right out of truth.

That's what Paul warned about in Acts 20:29–30—wolves from outside, and men from inside speaking perverse things. Hymenaeus, Philetus, Diotrephes, Demas—all apostates. They didn't start outside—they departed from inside.

II. The Source – Seducing Spirits

Why do they depart? Because they give heed to “*seducing spirits*.”

That’s devils whispering lies. Demons dressing heresy in religious robes. Fallen spirits enticing with new revelations, dreams, visions, philosophies. They seduce, not with horns and sulfur, but with enlightenment, tolerance, progress. They seduce the flesh, the intellect, the ego.

And brother, that’s what drives the great apostasy. The doctrines aren’t just human error—they’re devil’s curriculum. Every cult, every false gospel, every heresy is run by seducing spirits. Joseph Smith’s angel Moroni? Seducing spirit. Muhammad’s “Gabriel”? Seducing spirit. Liberal professors deconstructing the Bible? Seducing spirits. Prosperity preachers selling blessings? Seducing spirits.

It’s supernatural deception. You’re not just fighting men—you’re fighting devils in pulpits.

III. The Substance – Doctrines of Devils

The Spirit names it: “*doctrines of devils*.” Not just bad theology, but hell’s own curriculum. Devils are teaching classes, and apostates are their star pupils.

And what kind of doctrines are these? Paul names some in verse 3: forbidding to marry, commanding to abstain from meats. Legalistic asceticism. Religions that forbid marriage (hello, Rome with celibate priests and nuns) or regulate diets (hello, Seventh-Day Adventists, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam). All devil’s doctrines.

But it’s broader than that. Every denial of Christ’s deity, virgin birth, blood atonement, bodily resurrection, second coming—that’s devil’s doctrine. Every gospel of works—that’s devil’s doctrine. Every ecumenical unity over truth—that’s devil’s doctrine. Every modern Bible version chopping verses—that’s devil’s doctrine. The devil is a teacher, and the world is in his classroom.

IV. The Spread – It Eats Like Cancer

Paul already said in 2 Timothy 2:17 that heresy spreads like a canker. Doctrines of devils don’t stay in one corner. They infiltrate denominations, Bible colleges, mission boards, media, families. One generation questions the Book, the next denies it, the next despises it.

That's how apostasy spreads. The first compromise is "innocent." The second is "progressive." The third is outright heresy. And before long, whole churches are preaching devil's doctrine from ornate pulpits.

Look around—Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans, Baptists—denominations gutted by apostasy. Preachers denying hell, redefining marriage, ordaining sodomites, rewriting Scripture. That's the great apostasy in full bloom.

V. The Signs – Marks of Apostasy

Paul and Peter both give the marks of apostasy:

- **Departing from truth.** Replacing Scripture with tradition, philosophy, psychology.
- **Legalism.** Forbidding what God allows—marriage, food, liberty.
- **Lasciviousness.** Allowing what God forbids—immorality, worldliness.
- **Scoffing at prophecy.** 2 Peter 3:3 says scoffers mock the second coming.
- **Denial of Christ.** 2 Peter 2:1: false teachers deny the Lord that bought them.
- **Greed.** 2 Peter 2:3: through covetousness they make merchandise of you.

Check every false prophet today—you'll see those marks. Apostasy is textbook.

VI. The Danger – Faith Overthrown

The Spirit warns that doctrines of devils overthrow faith. That's the danger. It's not academic; it's eternal. Souls are damned. Believers are shaken. Churches collapse.

False doctrine doesn't just tickle ears—it destroys lives. How many Catholics trust sacraments instead of Christ? How many Muslims die for Allah without salvation? How many Protestants trust baptism, good works, or morality? How many evangelicals believe the "love gospel" without repentance? That's faith overthrown by devil's doctrine.

VII. The Modern Apostasy – Headlines Today

Look around and tell me we're not there:

- **Rome.** Priests forbidding marriage, commanding abstinence, denying grace. Textbook 1 Timothy 4.

- **Charismatics.** Seducing spirits masquerading as tongues, prophecies, healings.
- **Prosperity Preachers.** Doctrines of devils promising wealth for offerings.
- **Liberalism.** Professors denying inspiration, virgin birth, resurrection.
- **Ecumenical Movements.** Unity at the expense of truth—paving the road to Antichrist.
- **Cults.** Mormons, JW's, Christian Science—all devil's curriculum.
- **Islam.** Seducing spirits demanding jihad, denying Christ.

Every headline screams apostasy. The Spirit spoke expressly, and the newspaper confirms it.

VIII. The Contrast – Sound Doctrine

Against the flood of devil's doctrine, Paul charges Timothy: "*Preach the word*" (2 Tim. 4:2). The antidote to apostasy isn't clever debate—it's sound doctrine thundered from the Book.

The Word is light in darkness. The Word is truth against lies. The Word is food against poison. The Word is the anchor when winds of doctrine blow.

That's why Satan attacks the Book. That's why apostates despise it. Because once you hold to sound doctrine, devil's doctrine collapses.

IX. The Comfort – God's Foundation Stands

Don't miss the balance. Apostasy will spread, but the foundation of God stands sure (2 Tim. 2:19). The elect won't be lost. The truth won't fail. The church won't vanish. Apostates will fall, but Christ's body stands.

That's our comfort. We grieve over apostasy, but we don't despair. We fight lies, but we don't fear. Because Christ wins.

Conclusion – The Spirit Spoke, and It's Here

1 Timothy 4:1 isn't future—it's now. The Spirit said expressly that the last days would be marked by departure, seduction, and devil's doctrine. And here we are, swimming in it.

So what's the call? Don't give heed to seducing spirits. Don't swallow doctrines of devils. Don't drift with apostasy. Stand on the Book. Preach the Word. Cling to Christ.

Because when the smoke clears, apostates will burn, devils will be chained, and Christ will reign. The great apostasy will end in the greatest appearing—the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. And brother, no doctrine of devils can stop that.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

21 of 25: Paul's Warning to Ephesus – Wolves and False Prophets Entering the Flock (Acts 20:29–30)

Introduction – A Preacher's Goodbye Warning

Acts 20 records one of the most emotional scenes in Scripture. Paul, on his way to Jerusalem, gathers the Ephesian elders at Miletus. He knows he won't see their faces again. It's a farewell sermon. And what does he choose to emphasize? Not sweet memories, not sentimental stories, not flattery—but a blistering warning: *“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.”* (Acts 20:29–30).

That's the legacy he wanted to leave the elders of Ephesus: watch out for wolves. Not foxes, not stray dogs, not minor pests—wolves. Savage, bloodthirsty predators who rip sheep apart. And the kicker? They'd come from both outside and inside. From Rome and from the pew. From false religion and from professing brethren.

Brother, that's the ministry reality. The sheepfold is never safe. Wolves circle from the outside, and traitors rise from the inside. That's why Paul's words ring louder today than ever. The church is knee-deep in wolves, and most pulpits are too cowardly to call them out. But Paul didn't mince words. Let's tear into his warning and apply it like a branding iron.

I. The Context – Paul's Ministry Example

Before the warning, Paul lays down his own example (Acts 20:18–27). He served with humility, tears, trials. He didn't hold back anything profitable. He preached repentance

toward God and faith toward Christ. He declared the whole counsel of God. He coveted no man's silver or gold.

That's the contrast. He was no wolf. He was no hireling. He wasn't in it for money, fame, or power. He poured out his life for the sheep. That's why his warning carries weight—he wasn't bitter, he was burdened.

Modern wolves can't say that. They covet silver, court applause, hold back hard truths, preach half the counsel of God, and cry when their pockets are empty, not when souls are damned. They're the anti-Paul.

II. The Wolves – From Outside

Verse 29: *“After my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.”*

That's outside infiltration. Wolves masquerading as sheep. They don't nibble; they devour. They don't spare weak lambs; they tear them apart. Their mission is destruction.

That's cults storming the gates: Gnostics in Paul's day, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, Rome, prosperity preachers in ours. They infiltrate churches, lure sheep, devour souls. They look religious, they sound spiritual, but their teeth are bloody.

And Paul doesn't say “maybe.” He says “shall.” It's guaranteed. Every church, every generation faces wolf attacks. You don't escape it. You prepare for it.

III. The Traitors – From Inside

Verse 30: *“Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”*

That's the dagger. Wolves from outside are bad enough—but traitors from inside are worse. Elders, teachers, brethren rising up with perverse doctrine. Twisting truth to attract disciples. Building their own followings, not Christ's.

That's Diotrephes (3 John 9), who loved preeminence. That's Hymenaeus and Philetus (2 Tim. 2:17–18), who overthrew faith with doctrinal cancer. That's Alexander the coppersmith (2 Tim. 4:14), who did Paul much evil. They were insiders turned traitors.

And today? Professors in Christian colleges denying inspiration. Pastors in pulpits preaching psychology instead of Scripture. Elders tickling ears for tithes. Brethren seduced by YouTube prophets. Apostasy is always an inside job.

IV. The Motive – Drawing Disciples After Themselves

Don't miss the motive: "*to draw away disciples after them.*" That's the heart of every false prophet—self. They want followers, not Christ. They want applause, not truth. They want money, power, prestige.

That's the prosperity preacher begging for seed money. That's the cult leader demanding loyalty. That's the ecumenical bishop demanding unity under his leadership. Wolves crave disciples, not converts. They want fans, not sheep.

Paul drew men to Christ. Wolves draw men to themselves. That's how you spot them.

V. The Method – Speaking Perverse Things

How do they do it? "*Speaking perverse things.*" Not always open heresy, but twisted truth. Perverse doesn't mean blatantly false—it means distorted, crooked, bent.

They take Scripture out of context. They redefine terms. They emphasize minors, ignore majors. They spin doctrine to suit their agenda. They don't deny Christ outright—they redefine Him. They don't deny the gospel outright—they dilute it.

That's the devil's method since Eden: "*Yea, hath God said?*" A crooked twist of truth to pervert the right ways of the Lord (Acts 13:10). Wolves always come with Bible verses—bent like crowbars.

VI. The Danger – Not Sparing the Flock

Paul says they "*spare not the flock.*" Wolves don't care about sheep. They'll sacrifice souls for success. They'll damn men for dollars. They'll wound lambs for likes. They'll devour widows' houses for reputation.

That's Joel Osteen smiling while damning souls with half-truths. That's Benny Hinn fleecing widows for fake healings. That's Catholic priests abusing children. That's liberal preachers excusing sin while collecting checks. Wolves don't spare. They consume.

And the tragedy? Sheep follow them willingly. Why? Because they look like shepherds. They wear robes, smile wide, wave Bibles. They look holy while sharpening fangs.

VII. The Watch – Paul’s Charge

Paul’s warning isn’t just diagnosis—it’s a charge. Verse 31: *“Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.”*

That’s pastoral vigilance. Watch. Warn. Don’t nap while wolves circle. Don’t play nice while sheep are bleeding. Paul warned for three years—with tears. He wasn’t cold. He wasn’t mean. He was brokenhearted.

That’s the model. Pastors must watch for wolves. Warn with urgency. Preach truth sharp enough to expose lies. Cry over sheep being devoured. Wolves demand blunt preaching. Sheep demand tender tears. Paul gave both.

VIII. The Remedy – God and His Word

Verse 32: *“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace.”*

That’s the only safeguard. Not clever arguments, not church boards, not human wisdom. God and His Word. The Word of His grace builds up, gives inheritance, secures saints. Wolves collapse before Scripture.

That’s why wolves always attack the Book. They mock inspiration, undermine authority, replace it with psychology, tradition, philosophy. Because once sheep cling to the Book, wolves starve.

IX. The Modern Wolves at the Gate

Paul’s warning wasn’t for Ephesus alone. Wolves are alive and well today:

- **Cults.** Mormons, JWs, Muslims—wolves devouring sheep with lies.
- **Rome.** Priests forbidding marriage, commanding abstinence, selling salvation. Wolves in scarlet robes.
- **Prosperity Preachers.** Wolves devouring bank accounts with seed-faith scams.

- **Charismatic Prophets.** Wolves distracting with signs and wonders while perverting doctrine.
- **Liberal Pastors.** Wolves denying hell, blood, and resurrection while tickling ears.
- **Ecumenical Leaders.** Wolves crying unity, unity, while leading sheep to Antichrist.

Everywhere you look, wolves prowl. And most pulpits are silent. Paul wouldn't be. He'd name names, rip masks, and commend saints to God and His Book. That's how you handle wolves.

X. The Contrast – Shepherd versus Wolf

Put Paul against the wolves:

- Paul shed tears; wolves shed blood.
- Paul fed sheep; wolves devoured sheep.
- Paul drew men to Christ; wolves drew men to themselves.
- Paul spoke truth; wolves spoke perverse things.
- Paul guarded the flock; wolves destroyed it.

That's the eternal contrast. The shepherd bleeds for sheep; the wolf feeds on them.

Conclusion – Wolves Don't Retire

Paul's farewell warning echoes today: wolves are coming, wolves are inside, wolves are devouring. And the only hope is watchful shepherds, sharp Scripture, and God's grace.

Don't be naïve. Don't expect peace. Don't trust robes, smiles, or titles. Test everything by the Book. Cling to shepherds who bleed, not wolves who feed.

Because at the end, wolves will burn in hell. Sheep will shine in glory. And the Shepherd who gave His life for the flock will reign forever.

That's the hope Paul left Ephesus. That's the hope we cling to today.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

22 of 25: Peter’s Indictment – False Prophets and False Teachers (2 Peter 2)

Introduction – The Black Chapter

If Jude is the postcard warning about apostasy, 2 Peter 2 is the full-blown exposé. It’s the black chapter of the New Testament. No sugar-coating, no “love covers all,” no “let’s sit down and dialogue.” Just a blistering indictment of false prophets and false teachers in all their slime.

Peter doesn’t say “maybe.” He says “*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you.*” (2 Pet. 2:1). Not maybe. Not might. *Shall*. The Old Testament had them. The New Testament will have them. Israel had Balaam, Jeremiah had Hananiah, and the church will have prosperity preachers, cult leaders, and smooth-talking frauds.

This chapter rips the mask off and shows the rot beneath. If you want to see what God thinks of false prophets, read 2 Peter 2—it’s a holy flamethrower.

I. Their Entrance – Privily

Peter says they “*privily shall bring in damnable heresies.*” (v. 1). That’s how they operate—privily. Sneaky. Undercover. They don’t march in waving banners saying, “We’re here to preach heresy!” They creep in with smiles, soft tones, and a Bible under their arm.

They bring in *damnable heresies*. Not just minor differences, but damnable lies—denying the Lord, twisting the gospel, corrupting Scripture. And notice: they *bring* them in. Heresies aren’t native to the church; they’re imported contraband smuggled in by frauds.

That’s why Paul warned in Galatians 2:4 about “false brethren unawares brought in.” Wolves don’t knock—they sneak.

II. Their Denial – Denying the Lord That Bought Them

Verse 1 says they “*deny the Lord that bought them.*” Not deny God’s existence—they’re too slick for that. They deny His work. They deny His deity, His blood, His resurrection, His second coming. They may still say “Jesus,” but it’s another Jesus (2 Cor. 11:4).

Rome denies His finished work by re-sacrificing Him in the mass. Cults deny His deity. Liberals deny His resurrection. Charismatics deny His sufficiency by chasing signs. False prophets always deny the Lord that bought them.

And their end? *“Bring upon themselves swift destruction.”* They think they’re secure, but destruction is already on the way.

III. Their Following – Many

Verse 2: *“And many shall follow their pernicious ways.”* That’s the tragedy. False prophets never lack crowds. Many follow. Not a few, not a fringe—many.

Truth is narrow; lies are popular. Christ said the way to life is narrow and few find it (Matt. 7:14). But the way to destruction is broad and many walk it. That’s why Joel Osteen fills arenas while Bible preachers can’t fill pews. That’s why TikTok prophets get millions of views while gospel tracts get tossed. Many follow lies. Few cling to truth.

IV. Their Motive – Covetousness

Verse 3: *“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you.”*

There it is—the bottom line. Money. False prophets aren’t in it for souls; they’re in it for sales. They make merchandise of people. Sheep are customers. Members are revenue streams. Souls are dollar signs.

That’s why prosperity preachers beg for seed money. That’s why cults demand tithes and labor. That’s why Rome sold indulgences. That’s why televangelists hawk “miracle water.” Covetousness is the fuel.

And their tool? *Feigned words*. Polished speeches, emotional manipulation, rehearsed lines. Fake sincerity to fleece the flock.

V. Their Comparison – Old Testament Examples

Peter pulls history into the courtroom:

- **Angels that sinned.** (v. 4) God spared them not.
- **The old world in Noah’s day.** (v. 5) He spared not, but saved eight souls.

- **Sodom and Gomorrah.** (v. 6) Turned to ashes, condemned as examples.
- **Lot.** (v. 7) Delivered out of the filth.

The pattern is clear: God judges false prophets and their followers. Always has, always will. Balaam sold prophecy for profit—slain by the sword. Korah rose against Moses—swallowed by the earth. Hananiah contradicted Jeremiah—died that year. God doesn't play footsie with frauds.

VI. Their Description – Brutal Portraits

Peter paints their portrait in savage strokes:

- *“Presumptuous... self-willed”* (v. 10). Arrogant.
- *“Natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed”* (v. 12). Dumb animals fit for slaughter.
- *“Spots and blemishes, sporting themselves”* (v. 13). Stains on the church, mocking in their deception.
- *“Eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin”* (v. 14). Addicts to lust.
- *“Cursed children”* (v. 14). Damnation-bound.
- *“Wells without water, clouds carried with a tempest”* (v. 17). Empty frauds, promising refreshment but delivering nothing.

That's God's view of false prophets. Not “sincere seekers.” Not “misguided brothers.” Brute beasts. Cursed children. Empty wells. Spiritual frauds destined for damnation.

VII. Their Tactic – Promising Liberty

Verse 19: *“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption.”*

There's the hook. They promise liberty. Liberty from rules, guilt, sin. Liberty to live how you please. Liberty without repentance, without holiness, without accountability.

But it's a lie. They're slaves of corruption. They promise freedom while chained to sin. And those who follow end up enslaved too: *“for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”*

That's modern false prophets. Preaching tolerance while bound by lust. Preaching prosperity while bound by greed. Preaching freedom while addicted to sin. Their liberty is slavery.

VIII. Their End – Worse Than the Beginning

Verses 20–22 deliver the knockout: those who escape the pollutions of the world through knowing Christ but get entangled again are worse off. They're like dogs returning to vomit, sows back to mud.

That's apostates. They knew truth, tasted it, even preached it—but turned back. Their end is worse than their beginning. Judas is the prototype: preached, cast out devils, kissed Christ—and went to his own place in hell.

That's the destiny of false prophets. Vomit and mud. Shame and damnation.

IX. The Application – Spotting False Teachers Today

2 Peter 2 is a blueprint. How do you spot them?

- Do they deny the Lord's finished work? Then they're false.
- Do they chase money? Then they're false.
- Do they creep in privily with new revelations? Then they're false.
- Do they promise liberty while living in sin? Then they're false.
- Do they gather crowds while preaching heresy? Then they're false.

Apply the chapter and you'll see them everywhere—from Rome to megachurches, from mosques to YouTube prophets.

X. The Contrast – The Righteous Delivered

Don't miss the balance. God knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations (v. 9). He saved Noah. He saved Lot. He'll save His saints. False prophets will burn, but the righteous will shine.

That's our hope. We don't despair in apostasy. We stand. We cling to the Book. We preach the truth. We wait for deliverance. Because if God delivered Lot out of Sodom, He'll deliver His saints out of apostasy.

Conclusion – False Prophets' Funeral Dirge

2 Peter 2 is their funeral dirge. God wrote their obituary in advance: brute beasts, cursed children, empty wells, dogs and pigs. They may strut for now, but judgment lingers not. Their damnation slumbers not. Their end is sealed.

So here's the call: Don't be seduced by their liberty. Don't be dazzled by their crowds. Don't be fooled by their robes, smiles, or titles. Test them by the Book. Reject them. Stand apart.

Because at the end of the day, false prophets burn. The only safe place is Christ, the true Shepherd, whose Word is sure, whose work is finished, whose judgment is coming. And when He comes, every wolf, fraud, and apostate will howl in hell forever.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

23 of 25: John's Test – False Prophets and the Spirit of Antichrist (1 John 2:18–19; 4:1)

Introduction – The Last Hour

John doesn't waste time on pleasantries when dealing with deception. In 1 John 2:18 he writes: *“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.”*

Notice—he doesn't say the “end is coming someday.” He says *it is the last time*. The end began in the first century. And the proof wasn't wars or earthquakes—it was antichrists. *“Even now are there many antichrists.”* Not just one future figure, but a whole parade of them already at work.

Then in 1 John 4:1 he throws down the gauntlet: *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”*

That's the battlefield: many antichrists, many false prophets, many spirits whispering lies. John tells you it's the last hour and your job isn't to believe everything that sounds spiritual, but to test it by the Book.

And brother, if that was urgent 2,000 years ago, it's ten times more urgent now.

I. The Spirit of Antichrist – Already Here

John doesn't treat Antichrist as future only. He says "*ye have heard that antichrist shall come*" (the final man of sin in 2 Thess. 2, Revelation 13), "*even now are there many antichrists.*" The final Antichrist is coming, but the spirit is already here, working through false prophets, false teachers, false religions.

That spirit denies Christ's deity (1 John 2:22–23), denies His incarnation (1 John 4:3), and denies His finished work. The Antichrist spirit is anti-Christ—not just against Him, but replacing Him with counterfeits.

That's why every cult has a "different Jesus." Mormons have Jesus as the spirit brother of Lucifer. Jehovah's Witnesses have Jesus as Michael the archangel. Islam has Jesus as a prophet inferior to Muhammad. Liberal theology has Jesus as a moral teacher. Charismatics have Jesus as a genie granting health and wealth. All antichrist spirits—replacing the true Christ with fakes.

II. The False Prophets – Many Gone Out

John says "*many false prophets are gone out into the world.*" (1 John 4:1). Not a few, not rare cases—many. Flooding the earth with lies.

And notice—*gone out*. They don't stay inside; they spread. False prophets are missionaries of hell. They go out with Bibles in hand, smiles on faces, and lies on tongues. They knock doors, fill stadiums, flood YouTube, print books. The world is their mission field, deception their gospel.

If you want to measure the times, don't just count earthquakes—count false prophets. Every cult, every heresy, every prosperity preacher is evidence we're in the last hour.

III. The Test – Believe Not Every Spirit

John's command is blunt: "*Beloved, believe not every spirit.*" That's the opposite of modern Christianity. Today's motto is "Don't judge, just believe." John says, "Don't believe, judge."

He says *“try the spirits whether they are of God.”* Test them. Don’t swallow everything with a cross on it. Don’t trust every preacher quoting Scripture. Don’t believe every dream, vision, or prophecy. Test them by the Word. If it doesn’t line up, it’s antichrist.

That’s the safeguard. The only way to survive a flood of false prophets is ruthless testing. Not feelings, not majority, not charisma—Scripture.

IV. The Departure – They Went Out from Us

In 1 John 2:19, John explains the nature of antichrists: *“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”*

That’s apostasy. They start inside, professing faith, fellowshiping with saints. Then they leave, revealing they were never truly of Christ. Apostates aren’t pagans outside—they’re defectors inside.

That’s Judas—apostle on the outside, devil on the inside. That’s Demas—co-laborer turned deserter. That’s every modern apostate—seminary professors, pastors, “Christian” authors—once in the camp, now enemies of the cross. They went out because they were never truly in.

V. The Marks of Antichrist Spirits

John lays down the marks:

1. **Denying Christ’s Person.** *“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.”* (1 John 2:22).
2. **Denying Christ’s Incarnation.** *“Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist.”* (1 John 4:3).
3. **Denying Christ’s Deity.** 2 John 7 warns of deceivers denying Christ come in the flesh—denying His full God-man nature.
4. **Replacing Christ with Fakes.** They preach another Jesus, another gospel, another spirit (2 Cor. 11:4).

That’s the test. Line up any preacher or prophet with those marks, and you’ll know if the spirit behind him is of God or antichrist.

VI. The Appeal of Antichrist Spirits

Why do people flock to false prophets? Because antichrist spirits tell them what they want to hear. They offer:

- A Christ without a cross.
- Salvation without repentance.
- Heaven without holiness.
- Liberty without responsibility.
- Unity without truth.

They scratch itching ears (2 Tim. 4:3). They flatter flesh. They promise the kingdom without the King. That's why many follow them—because the flesh prefers lies over truth.

VII. The Danger – Deception of the Many

The danger isn't that false prophets exist—it's that they thrive. Many follow them. They overthrow faith. They damn souls. They sow confusion. They make the truth look foolish.

And don't think you're immune. John says even believers must test spirits. The deception is strong enough to fool anyone not anchored in the Book. That's why Christ said if it were possible, even the elect would be deceived (Matt. 24:24).

VIII. The Comfort – Ye Have an Unction

But John doesn't leave the saints trembling. In 1 John 2:20 he says: *“But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.”* The Spirit in believers gives discernment. In verse 27 he says the anointing teaches you and keeps you from deception.

That's the balance. False prophets abound, but the Spirit anchors the saints. Antichrist spirits deceive, but the Holy Spirit illumines. The world is full of lies, but the Book and the Spirit guard the believer.

IX. The Modern Flood of Antichrist Spirits

Where do we see this spirit today? Everywhere.

- **Islam.** Denies Christ's deity, death, and resurrection. Antichrist spirit.

- **Jehovah's Witnesses.** Deny Christ's deity. Antichrist spirit.
- **Mormons.** Twist Christ into a created being. Antichrist spirit.
- **Rome.** Denies Christ's finished work, replaces Him with sacraments. Antichrist spirit.
- **Liberal Theology.** Denies virgin birth, inspiration, resurrection. Antichrist spirit.
- **Charismatic Excess.** Replaces Christ with experiences, prophets, visions. Antichrist spirit.
- **New Age.** Replaces Christ with "the Christ consciousness." Antichrist spirit.

Everywhere you look, false prophets are gone out, peddling antichrist spirits. The stage is set for the final Antichrist.

X. The Final Antichrist

Don't miss the trajectory. Many antichrists now prepare the world for the one Antichrist later. The little fakes pave the way for the big fraud. The spirit of antichrist now will climax in the man of sin, the beast, the lawless one. He'll embody every antichrist lie, exalt himself above God, demand worship, and deceive the nations.

The current flood of false prophets isn't random—it's rehearsal. The spirit of antichrist now is stage prep for the Antichrist then.

Conclusion – Test the Spirits

John's indictment is timeless: the last hour is marked by antichrists, false prophets, and deceiving spirits. The world is full of them. The church is infiltrated by them. The only safety is to test the spirits, cling to the Book, and rest in the Spirit's anointing.

So here's the call: Don't be gullible. Don't believe every dream, vision, or preacher. Test everything by Scripture. If it denies Christ's person, deity, incarnation, or finished work—it's antichrist.

Because at the end, antichrist spirits burn. The final Antichrist falls. False prophets perish. But every believer clinging to the true Christ—the eternal Son of God, crucified and risen—will stand forever.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

24 of 25: The False Prophet of Revelation – The Final Deceiver (Revelation 13, 16, 19)

Introduction – Hell’s Holy Man

If the Bible gives you one last look at the devil’s clergy, it’s the False Prophet of Revelation. Not Balaam, not Hananiah, not Elymas—this is the final, ultimate, hell-ordained religious leader. He’s the pope of perdition, the archbishop of abomination, the reverend doctor of damnation.

Revelation doesn’t just show you the Antichrist (the Beast from the sea); it shows you his right-hand man—the Beast from the earth. This second beast doesn’t rule with political power but with religious deception. He looks like a lamb but speaks like a dragon (Rev. 13:11). He performs miracles, calls fire from heaven, deceives the world, and forces men to worship the first Beast.

That’s the False Prophet. He’s the final counterfeit preacher. The last pope of the devil’s church. And his fate is sealed: he’ll be cast alive into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20).

Let’s strip the robes off this fraud and look at him in the blazing light of Scripture.

I. His Appearance – Like a Lamb

Revelation 13:11: *“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.”*

That’s the mask. He looks religious. He imitates the Lamb of God. Two horns like a lamb—gentle, harmless, pastoral. He comes in clerical robes, with soft words, pious prayers, saintly smiles. He looks like Christ’s minister.

But listen to his voice—*“he spake as a dragon.”* The devil’s hiss hides behind the lamb’s wool. That’s the signature of every false prophet: the look of godliness, the sound of hell. Smooth face, forked tongue.

And don’t miss where he comes from: out of the earth. The first Beast rises from the sea (political nations), but this one from the earth (religion, land, stability). He’s a religious leader, not a politician.

II. His Authority – Delegated from the Beast

Revelation 13:12: *“And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast.”*

The False Prophet doesn't exalt himself—he exalts the Antichrist. He points the world to the Beast, demands worship, enforces allegiance. He's the PR man, the hype machine, the worship leader of hell's trinity.

That's the role of every false prophet: exalt a counterfeit, not Christ. The False Prophet is the epitome of that. His mission is to direct worship to Antichrist. He is Satan's John the Baptist, preparing the way for the man of sin.

III. His Miracles – Signs and Wonders

Revelation 13:13–14: *“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles...”*

There's the power—miracles. Not stage tricks, but real supernatural wonders. He calls fire from heaven. He dazzles crowds with signs. And the world bows.

That's the danger. People think miracles prove truth. If someone heals, speaks in tongues, calls fire, they must be from God. Wrong. The False Prophet proves miracles don't prove anything. Pharaoh's magicians copied Moses. Deuteronomy 13 warned that prophets with signs could still be liars. Signs don't authenticate doctrine—truth does.

The devil can do miracles. The False Prophet proves it. He deceives the world not with arguments but with wonders. And brother, if you chase signs now, you'll worship the Beast then.

IV. His Image – Idolatry Revived

Revelation 13:14–15: *“saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast... And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak...”*

There it is—idolatry on steroids. The False Prophet sets up an image of the Beast and animates it. The world bows to a talking idol. This is Nebuchadnezzar's golden image all over again, but global and supernatural.

The devil always craves worship through images. Rome fills churches with idols of Mary and saints. Pagan temples fill with statues. The False Prophet crowns it all with the Beast's image—breathing, speaking, demanding worship.

V. His Mark – Economic Tyranny

Revelation 13:16–17: *“And he causeth all... to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark...”*

The False Prophet enforces the mark of the Beast. Worship isn't optional; it's required to survive. No mark, no market. No allegiance, no bread.

That's the marriage of religion and economics. The False Prophet ties worship to survival. Bow to the Beast or starve. Worship Antichrist or die. That's the devil's kingdom in full bloom.

VI. His Allies – Devils and Demons

Revelation 16:13–14: *“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth...”*

There's the satanic trinity: the dragon (Satan), the Beast (Antichrist), the False Prophet. Out of their mouths come devils, working miracles, uniting kings for Armageddon.

The False Prophet isn't just a man—he's a mouthpiece for devils. His words drip with demon spirits. His sermons summon armies to fight God. That's the final pulpit of perdition.

VII. His End – The Lake of Fire

Revelation 19:20: *“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet... These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”*

That's his doom. No trial, no parole, no delay. The Beast and the False Prophet are the first tenants of hell's final prison. While Satan is chained for a thousand years, they're already burning.

And note—*alive*. They don't die first. They're cast alive into the lake of fire. Eternal torment, conscious punishment, hell's hottest flames. That's the end of the False Prophet.

VIII. The Spirit of the False Prophet Today

Don't relegate this to the future. The spirit of the False Prophet is already here:

- **Ecumenical Leaders.** Uniting religions under one banner, paving the road to Antichrist.
- **Charismatic Prophets.** Dazzling with signs, promising miracles, deceiving crowds.
- **Roman Clergy.** Elevating images, demanding allegiance, mixing worship with economics.
- **Prosperity Preachers.** Selling blessings, tying money to worship.
- **World Religious Summits.** Calling for interfaith unity, preparing the world for one religion.

The stage is set. The world is primed. When the final False Prophet appears, people will already be conditioned to bow.

IX. The Contrast – The True Prophet

Line him up against Christ, the true Prophet:

- The False Prophet speaks like a dragon; Christ speaks as the Good Shepherd.
- The False Prophet deceives with miracles; Christ delivers with truth.
- The False Prophet enforces worship with threats; Christ invites worship with grace.
- The False Prophet damns with a mark; Christ seals with the Spirit.
- The False Prophet burns in the lake; Christ reigns on the throne.

That's the choice. Believe the lies of the False Prophet and burn, or believe the truth of Christ and live.

Conclusion – Don't Be Fooled by the Lamb's Costume

The False Prophet of Revelation is the climax of false prophecy. He looks like a lamb, speaks like a dragon, works miracles, enforces worship, animates idols, and damns billions. He's the last pope of hell's religion.

But his doom is sure. Revelation 19 seals his fate. He'll be cast alive into the lake of fire, never to deceive again.

So here's the warning: don't be dazzled by signs. Don't be swayed by unity. Don't be fooled by robes, crosses, or miracles. Test everything by the Book. Cling to Christ, the true Lamb, the true Prophet, the true Savior.

Because when the smoke clears, the False Prophet burns, the Beast falls, the dragon is chained, and the Lamb reigns. And every saint who clung to truth will shine forever.

False Prophets of the Bible – From Eden to Armageddon

25 of 25: Armageddon – The Doom of the False Prophet (Revelation 19–20)

Introduction – The Curtain Falls on Hell's Showman

We've trudged through the slime trail of false prophets from the serpent in Eden to Elymas in Cyprus, from Balaam's greed to Jezebel's puppets, from the Pharisees' hypocrisy to Hymenaeus' doctrinal cancer. But now we've reached the end of the line—the last chapter, the final showdown, the smoking crater called Armageddon.

Here's where it all comes crashing down. Revelation 19–20 shows the doom of the greatest religious fraud in history: the False Prophet. He was the PR man for the Beast, the miracle-working deceiver, the idol-making, mark-enforcing, devil-breathing fraud who led the nations to worship Antichrist. He dazzled billions, called fire from heaven, animated images, and demanded allegiance. For seven bloody years he strutted like a lamb while hissing like a dragon.

But then Christ shows up on a white horse, and the game is over. No more signs, no more miracles, no more lies. The False Prophet is ripped out of the spotlight, grabbed by the throat, and tossed alive into the lake of fire. His end is eternal torment.

That's Armageddon—the death of deception, the doom of the last false prophet, the victory of the Lamb.

I. The Setting – Armageddon’s Battlefield

Revelation 16:16 names it: Armageddon. The kings of the earth, seduced by demons from the dragon, Beast, and False Prophet, gather in the plain of Megiddo. It’s the world’s final military rally—East and West, North and South, all under Antichrist’s banner.

The False Prophet is there, whipping the masses into a frenzy. His miracles unite the kings. His lies fuel the armies. His religious hype machine convinces nations they can fight God Almighty. That’s the height of delusion—thinking tanks and nukes can outgun the King of kings.

But that’s what false prophets do: they intoxicate men with lies until they march straight into judgment.

II. The Arrival – Heaven Opens

Revelation 19:11: *“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True.”*

Here comes Christ—not the Lamb led to the slaughter, but the Lion roaring to conquer. His eyes are flame, His head crowned, His robe dipped in blood, His name the Word of God. Behind Him ride the armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

And there’s the False Prophet, gaping in terror. For seven years he mimicked a lamb; now the real Lamb appears, blazing with glory. For seven years he played miracle man; now the true Miracle Worker splits the sky. He’s outmatched before the fight even starts.

III. The Demise – Beast and False Prophet Seized

Revelation 19:20: *“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him... These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”*

No trial. No appeal. No parole. Just seized and thrown. The Antichrist and his sidekick go from world rulers to eternal inmates in one verse.

Notice—they’re cast *alive*. They don’t even die first. They’re hurled alive into the lake of fire. That’s the first mention of anyone entering hell’s final prison. And it’s not drunkards, not atheists, not criminals—it’s religious frauds. The Beast and the False Prophet are hell’s first tenants.

That's how God ranks deception: the worst sinners are not the drunks or thieves, but the false prophets who damn souls. They go in first.

IV. The Lake of Fire – Eternal Doom

Don't sanitize it. The lake of fire is literal, conscious torment. Revelation 20:10 says the devil, Beast, and False Prophet will be "*tormented day and night for ever and ever.*" Eternal, unending, conscious torment. No annihilation, no parole, no escape.

The False Prophet, who promised liberty, finds himself enslaved forever. The one who called fire from heaven burns in fire forever. The one who gave life to idols has no life but eternal death. The one who exalted Antichrist is humbled beneath Christ.

That's the end of every false prophet—hellfire, forever.

V. The Devil's Trinity – Broken

The dragon, Beast, and False Prophet formed hell's unholy trinity. The dragon counterfeited the Father, the Beast counterfeited the Son, the False Prophet counterfeited the Spirit. But at Armageddon, the trinity collapses.

The Beast and False Prophet are seized and cast into fire. The dragon is bound for a thousand years in the bottomless pit. The counterfeit trinity is dismantled in one stroke.

That's how fast God can end deception. Seven years of lies undone in a single battle.

VI. The Contrast – The True Prophet Prevails

Compare the False Prophet with Christ:

- The False Prophet looked like a lamb; Christ is the Lamb.
- The False Prophet spoke like a dragon; Christ speaks with a sharp sword.
- The False Prophet deceived with signs; Christ conquers with truth.
- The False Prophet enforced the mark; Christ seals His saints.
- The False Prophet ends in fire; Christ reigns forever.

That's the eternal contrast—fraud versus faith, liar versus Lord, lake versus throne.

VII. The Lesson – Don't Be Fooled

Armageddon teaches us that deception ends in damnation. Every false prophet promises hope, but delivers hell. Every fraud offers liberty, but delivers bondage. Every fake miracle leads to fire.

The world will fall for the final False Prophet. Billions will bow to Antichrist, take the mark, and march to Armageddon. Why? Because they rejected truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:10–11 says God will send strong delusion that they should believe a lie, because they received not the love of the truth.

Reject truth now, and you'll fall for the lie then. Don't be fooled.

VIII. The Comfort – Christ Wins

Don't miss the comfort. The False Prophet burns, but Christ reigns. The Beast falls, but the Word stands. The dragon is bound, but the Lamb is crowned.

That's our hope. No matter how slick the frauds, no matter how dazzling the miracles, no matter how loud the lies—Christ wins. The doom of the False Prophet guarantees the triumph of truth.

IX. The Application – What Now?

So what do we do with this?

1. **Don't chase miracles.** The False Prophet proves signs deceive. Anchor in Scripture, not spectacles.
2. **Don't worship leaders.** False prophets crave disciples. Follow Christ, not personalities.
3. **Don't compromise truth.** Lies are everywhere; only truth saves. Stand on the Book.
4. **Warn others.** Billions are primed for deception. Preach the gospel while there's time.

Armageddon isn't just future—it's a warning now. The same spirit of the False Prophet is alive today. Don't be seduced.

Conclusion – The Last False Prophet Burns

This is the grand finale. The first false prophet—the serpent—slithered into Eden with lies. The last false prophet—the Beast’s sidekick—struts into Armageddon with miracles. From Eden to Armageddon, the line of deception runs unbroken.

But it ends here. The False Prophet is ripped from the stage and cast alive into the lake of fire. That’s the destiny of every fraud, every deceiver, every preacher of lies.

So here’s the call: cling to Christ, the true Prophet, the true Lamb, the true Lord. Don’t be dazzled by signs, don’t be duped by unity, don’t be deceived by robes and rituals. Hold fast to the Book, the blood, and the Blessed Hope.

Because when the smoke of Armageddon clears, the False Prophet is burning, the Lamb is reigning, and the saints are shining. And that’s how the story ends.

Conclusion – From Eden’s Whisper to Armageddon’s Fire

We’ve walked the long trail of deception, brother. Twenty-five portraits of frauds, phonies, and devil’s mouthpieces. From the garden’s first whisper—“*Yea, hath God said?*”—to the final sermon of the False Prophet calling fire from heaven, the Bible has dragged these frauds out into the open, one by one, so you don’t have to be duped.

And what have we learned? False prophets always look good. The serpent looked wise, Balaam looked gifted, Zedekiah looked patriotic, Jezebel’s prophets looked passionate, Hananiah looked optimistic, Pharisees looked holy, Hymenaeus looked scholarly, the False Prophet will look like a lamb. But peel the mask off, and every one of them speaks like a dragon.

Their tactics never change:

- Doubt God’s Word.
- Deny God’s judgment.
- Deify man.
- Distract with miracles, money, or popularity.
- Devour sheep to feed their own belly.

Their fruit never changes either: overthrown faith, corrupted worship, enslaved souls, and nations marching into judgment. Every time men followed them, they ended in shame, defeat, or death. Every time God's prophets stood against them, they were mocked, slapped, jailed, or killed—but proven true in the end.

And their end? That never changes either. Balaam fell by the sword. Hananiah died within the year. Jezebel's prophets were cut down at Carmel. Hymenaeus was delivered to Satan. Elymas was struck blind. The Pharisees went to hell with their traditions. And the last False Prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire. From Eden to Armageddon, God writes the same epitaph over every one: **Liar. Fraud. Damned.**

But don't miss the comfort. False prophets may overthrow *some* faith, but they can't overthrow God's foundation (2 Tim. 2:19). The sheep may be scattered, but the Shepherd never loses one of His own (John 10:28). The Book may be mocked, but it still abides forever (1 Pet. 1:25). Christ Himself warned, "*Beware of false prophets*" (Matt. 7:15), and Paul echoed, "*Take heed*" (Acts 20:28). The warnings are sharp, but they're paired with promises: God delivers Noah out of the flood, Lot out of Sodom, Daniel out of lions, the church out of the Tribulation. He always keeps His own, even when wolves prowl.

So what's the takeaway from this series? Don't be gullible. Don't believe every spirit. Don't fall for every preacher with a smile, every miracle on YouTube, every "new revelation" from some self-anointed prophet. Test the spirits. Line everything up with the Book. If it denies the blood, denies the Book, denies the bodily resurrection, denies the Second Coming—mark it down, it's a devil in robes.

And don't be afraid to stand alone. Micaiah did against 400. Jeremiah did against a nation. Paul did against the Judaizers. John did on Patmos. You may be outnumbered, but you're not out-armed. The sword of the Spirit cuts deeper than all their iron horns, smoke machines, and miracle shows.

Finally, remember this: the story doesn't end with deception, but with destruction. Revelation 19–20 is the final nail in the coffin. The Antichrist and the False Prophet—the two greatest deceivers in history—aren't buried, they're burned alive. The devil who inspired them follows soon after. And the saints who clung to truth? They reign with Christ a thousand years, then forevermore.

From Eden to Armageddon, the devil's prophets have had their day. But the last word belongs to Christ. The Lamb who was slain is the Lion who returns. The Shepherd who bled for the flock is the King who crushes the wolves. And when the smoke clears, every false prophet is ash in the fire, and every believer is safe in glory.

So here's the final call:

Don't be fooled by the serpent's whisper. Don't be swayed by the prophet's show. Don't be seduced by the dragon's roar. Cling to Christ, the true Prophet, the true Shepherd, the true Lord. Because when the last false prophet burns, the truth will still be standing, and every knee will bow to Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.