

THE Monarch

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VOL. 2 NO. 10

WITH MANY VOICES IN THE LAND
HOW CAN WE TELL TRUE FROM

FALSE PROPHETS



THERE ARE THREE DEFINITE BIBLICAL SIGNS OF A FALSE PROPHET. ONE, PICTURED ABOVE, IS THAT HE IS OUT TO MAKE MERCHANDISE OF YOU. HE WILL TRICK YOU OUT OF YOUR MONEY OR TALENT OR WHAT EVER YOU HAVE TO GIVE. AND USE IT FOR HIS OWN PROFIT.

FALSE PROPHETS

The title of "false prophet" carries with it ominous overtones. Once a person who is trying to hear from the Lord and share what he is hearing with others is labeled a false prophet it's almost as if the death knell has been sounded for him. It's as tho he's been judged and sentenced to eternal condemnation. He has no hope of ever being anything more than a false prophet. This can really make it hard on a guy, especially when people in places of influence label him. All these influential people have to do is spread the word, then everyone who believes them steers clear of the one they have tagged.



THE LABEL OF FALSE PROPHET HAS A TERRIBLE FINALITY ATTACHED TO IT.

The term "false prophet" has been used much too loosely in Christian circles and much too freely. Usually, when someone becomes a threat to the existing structure he is labeled a false prophet. Or, if he slips up one time and makes a proclamation that doesn't come about, he's labeled forever. The thinking goes "He's made one mistake, he can never ever be trusted to do right again. THIS IS WRONG."

Well, we made a study of what a false prophet is and does and you may have guessed we found out that the real false prophets are rarely labeled as such and those who are labeled were never false prophets to begin with.



We'd like to begin our study by saying we're all growing up. We're all learning and striving to do God's will. The Bible tells us to exercise our senses so we can learn what is right or wrong. In exercising our senses we're bound to make mistakes. We have to allow each other the right to get up

brush off and start over again if we've stumbled.



WHEN WE'RE LEARNING IT IS ONLY NATURAL TO MAKE MISTAKES.

If you feel you have the gift of prophecy begin first to exercise it among close understanding friends and acquaintances, people who will help and encourage you. This way you'll be able to learn when you are speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit and when you're speaking from your own soul or mind.

Learning and stumbling among friends is a lot easier than doing it in a public arena. (If you have real friends). Friends can overlook mistakes. In the public arena there are all kinds of Christians at all stages of maturity. You may never live down a mistake made in public. God will forgive you but your society may not.

A prophet is one who speaks on behalf of God. He is a public expounder of God's word. He forthtells or speaks out God's word and at times foretells events of the future. A true prophet is, of course, led by the Holy Spirit. His prophecies are true and correct, although our interpretation of them may be premature or incorrect.

ACCORDING TO SOME STANDARDS JONAH WAS A FALSE PROPHET



For example: Jonah prophesied that Nineveh would fall in forty days (Jonah 3:4). It did not, Nineveh repented and was spared. If we judged Jonah on the forty-first day we would have called him a false prophet. But, forty years after Jonah's prophecy, Nineveh did fall. So a year was as a day (Eze 4:6) and Jonah was after all a true prophet.

ELISHA HAD A MEAN DISPOSITION



We can't judge the truth of a prophet's words by the character of the prophet. A study of the Old Testament prophets shows that some of them were a pretty gruff lot yet their words were truth. No one would argue as to whether Elisha was a true prophet or not yet Elisha cursed a bunch of kids who were teasing him for being bald and two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of them all up. That doesn't sound like something a man of God would do but he did (Please don't use this as an excuse for being a brute, we're supposed to be changing!).



WE'RE SO STEEPED IN TRADITION THAT TRUTH SOUNDS LIKE HERESY.

Also, we can't judge a person because what he says sounds new or heretical. Paul said he followed the way called heresy (Acts 24:14) and every Christian alive today is glad he did. We're all so steeped in tradition that when the Holy Spirit does speak it knocks us for a loop. He's not saying anything new really. He's just bringing to light things we've covered over with our own rules, thoughts and ideas.

TRUE & FALSE PROPHETS CAN MANIFEST MIRACLES.



And again we can't judge a man just because his ministry is accompanied by miracles, signs and wonders. Many Christians believe if there are miracles present in a ministry then whatever is said by that minister is truth.



REMEMBER, JUDGING CAN BE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE.

The Bible does not teach this. Matt. 7:22 points out that 'workers of iniquity' will

FALSE PROPHETS

EVALUATING A PROPHET

do great works and even cast out devils. Matt. 24:24 & Mark 13:22 say, "for then shall arise false christs and false prophets, and shall show great wonders, insomuch that, were it possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Rev. 16:13-14 says "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet." "for they are spirits of devils, working miracles." Rev. 19:20 - And the beast was taken and the false prophet that wrought miracles before him.

FALSE PROPHETS CAN WORK MIRACLES!



We have found in our study there are **THREE THINGS A FALSE PROPHET WILL DO.**

Now these three things are variables. In other words A FALSE PROPHET MAY DO ONLY ONE OF THEM, or he may do only two or, again, he may do all three.

THE THREE THINGS ARE:
 1) DENY THE LORD
 2) BE RULED BY THE LOVE OF MONEY
 3) TRY TO PUT YOU UNDER SOME SORT OF BONDAGE, like wrapping you up again in the law of Moses or trying to make you conform to the rules of one church or denomination.



A FALSE PROPHET WILL DO ONE OR MORE OF THE ABOVE THREE THINGS.

As we continue in this study you may want to check your own motives for ministering. If something we bring out reminds you of certain ministries and what they might be doing wrong, remember, our God is the God of another chance. He desires mercy and desires us to be merciful. We don't want this lesson to be used as a club to beat someone to death who has made an

	MIRACLES		CHARACTER		PROPHECIES COME TRUE		DENIES THE LORD		LOVE OF MONEY		PUTS UNDER BONDAGE	
	YES	NO	GOOD	BAD	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
TRUE PROPHET	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓
FALSE PROPHET	✓		✓	✓	?	?	?		?		?	

THE BIBLE TELLS US TO JUDGE NO MAN. AT THE SAME TIME IT GIVES US SIGNS OF A FALSE PROPHET. TRUE AND FALSE PROPHETS HAVE SOME THINGS IN COMMON. OUR TEXT EXPLAINS THE CHART IN MORE DETAIL.

honest mistake in his motives and is willing to change. But then again we don't want you to be led astray by the many false prophets there are in the land today.

DON'T USE THIS LESSON AS A CLUB.



To us, the first and most obvious sign of a false prophet is that he **MAY DENY THE LORD.**

THE FIRST SIGN.

DENYING THE LORD

II Peter 2:1 - But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even **DENYING THE LORD.**

I John 4:1-3 Believe not every spirit... many false prophets are gone out into the world... every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God.

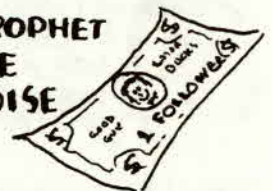
If a person claims to be a prophet and denies the Lord, steer clear of him. But, remember, we said **THESE THREE THINGS ARE VARIABLES.** A false prophet will not necessarily deny Jesus Christ. Jesus himself said in Matt. 7:22 "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not **PROPHESIED IN THY NAME?** and in thy name cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And I will profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me ye workers of iniquity."

THE SECOND SIGN.

THE LOVE OF MONEY

The second thing we discovered in the Bible is that a false prophet **MAY** be ruled by the **love of money.** He may expound the word of God correctly but his motive is to make money. His words may be true yet have no anointing. He is using the words of the Bible for his own advantage.

A FALSE PROPHET WILL MAKE MERCHANDISE OF YOU.



II Peter 2:3 tells us "through covetousness shall they (false prophets - II Pet. 2:1) with feigned words **MAKE MERCHANDISE OF YOU...**" In other words they're interested in what financial profit they can make from their ministry... or how they can milk you for all you're worth.

To further illustrate this we should point out the tremendous parallel in Rev. 12:13 between the devil, antichrist, false prophet and God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

We won't go into all the details here, we'll have more on this next month. We'll just bring out enough of the parallel to make our point.

A PARALLEL OF OPPOSITES
REV. 12 & 13

GOD ~ DEVIL
JESUS CHRIST ~ ANTICHRIST
HOLY SPIRIT ~ FALSE PROPHET

The devil gives the antichrist his power, seat and authority (Rev. 13:2), just as God gave Jesus his power, seat and authority.

The antichrist is given power to continue 42 months (3 1/2 years), just as Jesus' ministry lasted 3 1/2 years.

You see the devil is the

FALSE PROPHETS

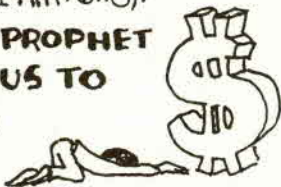
opposite of God and the anti-Christ is the opposite of Jesus Christ. Also, the false prophet is opposite of the Holy Spirit.

In Rev. 13:12 the false prophet is found making all the world worship the antichrist. In a like manner the Holy Spirit teaches us to worship Jesus Christ.

Now the false prophet wants us to worship the antichrist, his name and his number which is 666 (Rev. 13:18).

By checking Old Testament parallels to the number 666 we have found in I Kings 10:14 and II Chron. 9:13 that this is the number of talents of gold Solomon collected in a year (666 talents). This represents heavy oppressive taxes. The antichrist is the epitome of the love of money, which is the root of all evil (I Tim. 6:10).

THE FALSE PROPHET TEACHES US TO WORSHIP MONEY.



One sign of a false prophet is that he is out to make money. He makes his judgments according to how and where he can get the most money not according to what the Holy Spirit would have him do. His major plea is for your money. He twists God's words in order to make profit by them. He makes merchandise of gullible Christians.

He has "forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam, the son of

Bosor, who loved THE WAGES OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS" (2 Pet. 2:15).

You'll remember Balaam was a prophet and he was going to curse God's people because he was offered money to do it.

Now we want to make it clearly understood that money in itself is not evil. It is the LOVE OF MONEY that causes problems. Even a poor man can have the love of money and have his motives all messed up.

MONEY IS NOT EVIL. IT'S THE LOVE OF MONEY THAT CAUSES PROBLEMS.



God's prophets need money. It is a necessity for them to travel and to just plain live and keep food on the table. Every prophet of God has the right to ask for money for his labors, although it is the responsibility of those he is ministering to to support him. In fact the Bible tells us to give double honor to those who minister well (I Tim. 5:17-18). And that doesn't mean to shake his hand twice as long. It means this man has places to go, things to do, people to meet and he needs money to do it - twice as much as the normal person.

Remember, again, this is a variable. If you sense that a certain ministry is ruled by the love of money, yet their message has a ring of truth to it, be careful in your judgment of them. A person can speak "truth" yet that truth can bring death rather than life. The letter kills, it is the Spirit that brings life (II Cor. 3:6). The love of money is a sign of a false prophet but a false prophet is not necessarily ruled by the love of money.

He may minister out of all sincerity with no thought of monetary gain. But being sincere does not make a person right. The third sign we found is that a false prophet will try to put you under bondage to the law or some tradition of man.

THE THIRD SIGN.



Paul was having a problem with this in Galatia. He wrote of FALSE BRETHREN unawares brought in, who came in to spy out the liberty the Galatians had in Jesus Christ, so they might BRING THEM UNDER BONDAGE (Gal. 2:4).

We're relating 'false brethren' here to 'false prophets' because when a fake brother takes it upon himself to become an expounder of God's word he becomes a false prophet.

False brethren rob us of the grace that Jesus Christ spent His blood for. They try to bring us into bond-

age by putting us back under rules and laws and traditions of men.

A FALSE PROPHET WILL PUT YOU UNDER THE LAW.



They try to tell us we can't receive God's full blessing if we put this on or wear that or work on this day or celebrate that holiday or eat this or read that magazine. The list goes on and on.

They ignore scriptures like Gal. 2:16 "A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith OF Jesus Christ ... for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

They try to make us think the flesh can make us perfect, regardless of what Galatians 3:3 says, "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the spirit, are ye now made perfect in the flesh?" or Gal. 3:11 "The just shall live by faith."

The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ" (Gal. 4:24). Once we've graduated from school we don't keep returning to our teacher for guidance and direction. His job is done. He was preparing us for graduation day. After graduating we're supposed to have the ability to earn a living through what the teacher taught us.

CONDEMNATION IS THE FAVORITE TOOL OF THE FALSE PROPHET



The third sign of a false prophet is that he will bring you under bondage and condemnation. He'll make you feel condemnation for anything from eating pork chops to celebrating Christmas. Don't allow anyone to rob you of your joy and freedom in Christ (Col. 2:16-23).

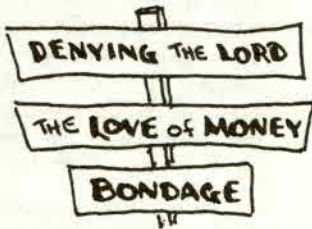
FALSE PROPHETS

IF THIS
MESSAGE
GETS OUT
I'M
RUINED!



We have seen in this study that we can't judge a person as a false prophet by our interpretation of his prophecy, by his character or because what he says sounds new or heretical. We've seen that both true and false prophets can have miracles accompanying their ministries. We have seen there are three definite signs of a false prophet: 1) Denying the Lord, 2) Being ruled by the love of money, 3) Presenting a message that brings bondage to Moses' law or traditions of men. A false prophet will manifest one or more of these three signs.

BEWARE
OF THE
THREE
SIGNS.



Don't allow yourself to fall under the influence of any ministry manifesting these signs. It will be unprofitable for you and will not lead you into life.

But, remember, all of us are subject to make mistakes and err along the way. A person or ministry can change. **Our God is the God of another chance.** Don't write a ministry off because of an honest mistake on their part. Then again, don't keep putting time and money into a ministry that has no intention of changing itself or helping you. □



I'LL JUST HAVE
TO GO DO MY
NUMBER ON SOMEONE
WHO HASN'T READ
THIS PAPER.

