

## FALSE PROPHECY

### 2 Peter 1:20-21

## FALSE PROPHECY

- *"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."* – 2 Peter 1:20-21

## FALSE PROPHECY

- Instead of interpreting, we are commanded to understand His will
  - *"By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ..."* – Ephesians 3:4
  - *"So then, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."* – Ephesians 5:17

## FALSE PROPHECY

- ALL who are called prophets ARE NOT true prophets. They must first pass the tests. The Bible is full of warnings about false prophets, false teachers, false apostles and even false Christs.

## FALSE PROPHECY

- The apostle John warns us not to be gullible, and commands us to hold them to the test
  - *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."* – 1 John 4:1

## FALSE PROPHECY

- *How do we test the spirits? God's word tells us how:*
  - **THE MIRACLE TEST**
  - **THE TRUE OR FALSE PREDICTION TEST**
  - **THE GOOD FRUIT/BAD FRUIT TEST**
  - **THE GOSPEL TEST**

## FALSE PROPHECY

- **THE MIRACLE TEST**

The test of signs, wonders & miracles

– "... how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will." – Hebrews 2:3-4

## FALSE PROPHECY

- **THE MIRACLE TEST**

– "And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed." – Mark 16:20

– "Therefore, they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands." – Acts 14:3

– "The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles." – 2 Corinthians 12:12

## FALSE PROPHECY

- **THE MIRACLE TEST**

– God performed signs, wonders and miracles through the hands of many of those he chose to reveal His word. If someone claims to speak for God AND can make blind men see, deaf men hear, paralyzed men walk, and dead men live again, he's a true prophet. If no miracles are performed, we must use a different test.

## FALSE PROPHECY

- **THE TRUE OR FALSE PREDICTION TEST**

This test was made known by God through Moses

– "You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him." – Deuteronomy 18:21-22

## FALSE PROPHECY

- **THE TRUE OR FALSE PREDICTION TEST**

This test was made known by God through Jeremiah

– "The prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, then that prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent." – Jeremiah 28:9

## FALSE PROPHECY

- **THE TRUE OR FALSE PREDICTION TEST**

According to Moses, it only takes one false prophecy to prove a false prophet. But some prophets don't predict the future, they simply reveal God's word. If no prophetic predictions are uttered, we must use another test.



## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOOD FRUIT/BAD FRUIT TEST

This test was given by Jesus

– *“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.”* – Matthew 7:15-20

## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOOD FRUIT/BAD FRUIT TEST

Jesus continues ...

– *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.’”* – Matthew 7:21-24

## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOOD FRUIT/BAD FRUIT TEST

According to Jesus, we should be able to identify false prophets “by their fruits.” The bad fruits, or “deeds of the flesh” are contrasted with the fruit of the spirit

*“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”* – Galatians 5:19-23

## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOOD FRUIT/BAD FRUIT TEST

Any “prophet” practicing the deeds of the flesh is obviously a false prophet. However, Jesus said false prophets would not always be so obvious, but would come “in sheep’s clothing,” appearing as a member of the flock, as a brother or sister in Christ, or a teacher of truth

*“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.”* – 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOOD FRUIT/BAD FRUIT TEST

It is worthy of note that in Matthew 7:21-24, Jesus said that on judgment day there would be “many” who call him Lord, who will claim to have, “in His name,” prophesied, cast out demons and performed many miracles. And He will declare to them “*I never knew you, depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.*”

It’s not that He once knew them. He never knew them. These were self-deceived souls who convinced themselves (and likely others) that they had supernatural powers by the authority of Jesus, when in reality they had neither His powers nor His authority. These people are alive and living in our world today, disguised as religious leaders.

## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOSPEL TEST

This test was revealed by God through Paul

– *“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!”* – Galatians 1:6-9

## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOSPEL TEST

*According to the apostle Paul, anyone who teaches a different gospel than what was taught by the apostles of Christ is not to be believed. He even goes so far as to say, "even if we (someone claiming to be an apostle) or an angel from heaven" preaches a different gospel than they had already received, he is to be accursed.*

*We know that Paul taught the same thing everywhere in every church (1 Corinthians 4:7), therefore it is the gospel of Christ revealed to His church by His apostles that is the final standard by which to test the words spoken by men, women, or even angels.*

## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOSPEL TEST

*This test is fully supported by the promise Jesus made to his chosen apostles that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all the truth*

*– "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come." – John 16:13*

## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOSPEL TEST

*This test is supported by the Hebrew writer, comparing God's previous system of revelation to His final system of revelation, His Son:*

*– "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world." – Hebrews 1:1-2*

## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOSPEL TEST

- *God's Son Jesus appointed His chosen apostles to continue His work of revealing God's word, after they received the power of the Holy Spirit*

*– "... but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." – Acts 1:8*

## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOSPEL TEST

*The apostle Paul urged the church in Ephesus to read what he wrote in order to understand what had been revealed to the apostles and prophets*

*– "... that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit..." – Ephesians 3:3-5*

## FALSE PROPHECY

- THE GOSPEL TEST

*To the young preacher Timothy, Paul showed the all-sufficiency of the Gospel in training us to please God*

*– "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." – 2 Timothy 3:16-17*



## FALSE PROPHECY

### • THE GOSPEL TEST

*Peter warned against false prophets and teachers, urging Christians to focus instead upon the revealed word of God*

- "... seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust." – 2 Peter 1:3-4

## FALSE PROPHECY

### • THE GOSPEL TEST

Peter continues

- "...that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles." – 2 Peter 3:2
- "...and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction." – 2 Peter 3:15-16

## FALSE PROPHECY

### • THE GOSPEL TEST

**John warns against going beyond and teaching more than the gospel of Christ**

- "**Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.**" – 2 John 9

## FALSE PROPHECY

### • THE GOSPEL TEST

**Jude urges believers to take a stand for the faith ONCE FOR ALL handed down by the apostles of Christ**

- "*Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.*" – Jude 3
- "*But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" – Jude 17

## FALSE PROPHECY

### • ALL "MODERN DAY" PROPHECY IS FALSE

- "*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.*" – John 16:13
- "*But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bring swift destruction upon themselves.*" – 2 Peter 2:1

## FALSE PROPHECY

### • ALL "MODERN DAY" PROPHECY IS FALSE

- "*Love never fails, but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away, if there are tongues, they will cease, if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.*" – 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

## FALSE PROPHECY

- **ALL "MODERN DAY" PROPHECY IS FALSE**

- *"... In humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls."* – James 1:21

- *"But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does."* – James 1:25