

PROPHETS and prophecies

Recognizing true and false prophets

Part 1



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *There should be true prophets in your church. Are there any? Male and female. But Jesus said to BEWARE of false prophets. Don't listen to them. Let's focus on this important topic that can partly determine if you get deceived or not.*

Hello you all. There's something in most of us that make us very CURIOUS about what's coming ahead. We *wanna* know! So we check weather forecasts. We want to know if a hurricane is on the way. We just like knowing what's coming. And that's why so many of you listen to "prophets" who say they got a word from God. But *did* they get one? This is also why you love sermons on prophecy.

But some few others think it's all bogus and don't like spending ANY time on prophecy. But most of us are curious. We're told a third of the Bible is prophecy. And **Revelation 1:3** blesses those who read and study that book. So I think it would be best to realize the importance of prophecy and how to recognize true prophets from the false ones. **False prophets are very dangerous, God says.** He doesn't want his children listening to false prophets. Some speakers you listen to may be false teachers – even within your church – and you may not even realize it.

Famous soothsayers and prognosticators of the past include names like **Nostradamus**, who wrote a **book in 1555**. But his predictions are vague and can be interpreted in many ways. There was also **Jean Dixon**, a psychic and astrologer, who died in 1997. And if you look up "**psychics**" – there are hundreds and hundreds of them. The Bible forbids us going to palm readers,

crystal ball gazers, mediums who talk to the dead, and witches. DON'T go to them. Don't let your curiosity lead you to disobey God.

Let me ask you: If you had a choice to hear a public presentation or Bible study on “We’ll reveal who the Beast and False Prophet of Revelation 13 are on Wednesday night” – or – “How to grow more in having/exhibiting God’s LOVE” -- which study do you guess would draw a larger crowd?

We’re talking about true and false prophets today. This will be a 2-part sermon. Part 1 is what God says about prophets, and part 2 will be what God says about HIS prophets in the church and how to recognize false prophets.

There are SO MANY scriptures about prophets – true and false prophets – all throughout the Old AND New Testaments. We need to understand more about this topic because with our modern media, internet and TV – we can be bombarded with teachers, preachers and prophets, much more readily and more of them than the church ever had to face before in church history!

Today I will address these points:

- ***Understand there ARE, and will be lots of true prophets in God’s church*** in the last days. Realize that. Believe that. You may have been preconditioned to resist believing your church has prophets. We used to speak of us being “a non-prophet organization”.
- **And there are already many FALSE prophets.** In Elijah’s day there were 400 priests of Baal. Many of these false prophets will even be able to do signs and miracles and even preach in Jesus’ name. They can be very enticing and convincing that they are truly God’s true prophets by the signs and miracles they perform in Jesus’ name. But GOD absolutely warns us against them.
- **HOW do we RECOGNIZE false prophets from TRUE prophets?** What does GOD say are the signs of true prophets and false prophets?
- **Can TRUE prophets include WOMEN as well as men?**
- Do you realize that “**to prophesy**” includes foretelling the future, as well as speaking under God’s inspiration without even predicting any future events.

So welcome everyone to Light on the Rock (LOTR). I’m Philip Shields, host and founder of LOTR, where we focus on having a personal

and intimate relationship with God more than we do on facts, data and doctrine, though we do a lot of that too. But at LOTR we want to lead you to a deep and total FAITH in God and Christ, and seeking to also totally OBEY by His Spirit and to do works of kindness and love. We focus on loving GOD and fellow mankind.

I pray God will also lead some of you to help us do God's work with several thousand brethren in East Africa – in Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi especially. We are helping scores of orphans and widows and helping organize our thirty-two congregations in Kenya alone, plus about as many more in Malawi. I recommend you watch the video "The Least of these my Brethren". Who the "least" is will surprise you.

Any of you anywhere around the world should also be able to hear my sermons being broadcast around the clock on Zeno radio, in over ninety countries. Check it out. <https://zeno.fm/radio/light-on-the-rock/>

I'm noticing YOU TUBE has loads of self-proclaimed prophets and prophetesses. They each claim that God himself spoke to them in person or in a dream or vision things to share with the world. I'll have a lot to say about these people as we go along.

But we must also understand there are going to also be many TRUE prophets of God. Yes, in the church either right now – or very soon. But too many of you in the church have been conditioned to doubt we have *any* prophets in God's church. I hope to teach it correctly today and clearly show what scripture says.

Joel 2/Acts 2 tells us there will be many prophets in these last days – even women. The Book of Acts and Paul's epistles openly talk about many prophets in the church of their day, not just in the leadership but among the general membership, including women. We'll cover that thoroughly in part 2 of this series. *We are not to have women preachers or ordained pastors, but there were true prophetesses, like Anna in the temple speaking of the Messiah (Luke 2:36-38).* There were **four prophetess daughters of Philip** the evangelist. Plus all the women who also spoke in Acts 2 on Pentecost, where 120 gathered together, including many women (**Acts 1:15; 2:1**). **When the Holy Spirit descended on them all, they ALL spoke in the Spirit (Acts 2:4).** "All" has to include the women who spoke as Anna had in the temple complex. Peter explained why they were seeing this miracle of everyone hearing them speak in his own language by **quoting Joel 2**. Those speaking included women, testifying no doubt of Christ.

Peter quoted from Joel 2.

Joel 2:28-31

"And it shall come to pass afterward

That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your DAUGHTERS shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.
29 And also on **My menservants and on My maidservants**
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.
30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth:
Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.
31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of YHVH."

Verse 29 makes it clear that prophesying is not just for leaders of the church. This was not just for apostles and evangelists – but also for servants, and for the regular brethren too! Again, Joel 2 is not about false prophets but God's people! Men and women prophesying – foretelling or speaking from inspiration. We should be finding prophets in our churches, right now – or soon.

I don't claim to be a prophet who foretells, but perhaps who speaks under inspiration. I hope you see the difference.

Paul makes it clear that God calls some to be apostles (not just one apostle - but there were over a dozen apostles in his day), some PROPHETS.

Ephesians 4:11 (also 1 Cor. 12:28)

"And He Himself gave some to be **apostles, some prophets**, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,"

But some church members don't seem to believe there are ANY true prophets anymore. There are supposed to be some! Some even doubt or get suspicious of anyone who says God revealed or said something to him/her.

YES, accept and believe that God does still speak to people who are tuned in to him. I have three sermons on "**Hearing God's Voice**". Start expecting God to talk to you in strong thoughts, through scripture, through events in your life, and many more ways. Some of God's words are strong thoughts that you *know* didn't originate with you. You don't have to be a church leader to be experiencing this! Respond to those times or you can start to lose God's words to you. But some of you are so conditioned to resist this sort of thing as being demonic somehow, so you could lose out! How sad!

I believe God has spoken to me in *strong* thoughts at various times, but I don't claim to be a prophet. YOU should be hearing God's words to you from time to time too. **If God could speak through a Jackass to Balaam, he can talk to me and to you too. (There are stories and examples of**

this in the audio version) The more you respond, the more this will happen.

So I'm not dismissing God speaking to people – but we need to know how to distinguish TRUE PROPHETS from the FALSE prophets.

There are many sermons on false prophets but not enough reminding God's children that He has put true prophets and prophetesses in HIS Church as well. God will need to be telling his children some very important messages:

Amos 3:7

*“Surely YHVH God does nothing,
Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”*

That is for us today as well, not just for the good old days. And these messages could very well come to just regular brethren, and not always leaders of the church.

And any and ALL TRUE prophets or prophetesses who are speaking what God said – who are FORETELLING – cannot be true prophets if they're making things up! The message is not from God if they're doing that.

2 Peter 1:19-21 Legacy Bible

“And we have as more sure the prophetic word, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from one's own interpretation, 21 For no prophecy was ever made by the will of man, but men being moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” .

But there are scriptures after scriptures warning us about FALSE PROPHETS TOO. Fallen angels can give them some ideas of things to happen too. Let's read some and learn how to identify false prophets.

*STUDY the last half of **Jeremiah 23**, where God warns against those claiming they were repeating what GOD had spoken to them – when God had NOT spoken at all to them.*

*Nowadays, we're being BOMBARDED with prophetic messages. Which ones are from God? And **remember, some of these may be within your own church** – wolves dressed not as shepherds, but as SHEEP. They look like church members.*

Not even the apostles had what we face today – a daily bombardment if you just check, on YOUTUBE, Facebook, Internet, TV BUT WE also have so much of God's word if we'd just check it!

Realize this: It's likely that **not even the apostles owned their own Bible** as we do, with 66 scrolls all in one bound leather book today or on our Smart Phones. How would you carry around 66 scrolls – or afford them? Today we have countless Bibles on our smart phones and laptops. There are free programs like **Bible HUB and Bible GATEWAY**. Even the apostles never had this. Use this gift. We'll all be judged on what we've been GIVEN.

A HUGE WAY to recognize error is to absolutely know the Word of God inside out. STUDY much more than you are or have been.

(More details on audio about how to use Bible Gateway and Bible Hub around the 21 minute mark).

WHY IS THIS topic SO IMPORTANT?

Jesus says we – the Elect, the True Believers, can end up very deceived, led astray if we don't know how to spot false teachers and prophets. We'll read His warnings shortly. *I doubt any false prophet even realizes he/she is a FALSE prophet!* But we have to be far more careful not to listen to, or watch, those you can identify as false prophets or false teachers.

WARNINGS ABOUT FALSE PROPHETS

And don't put ANY stock in a prophet's abilities to do fantastic miracles and show great signs and wonders.

Matthew 24:24-25

"For false christs (messiahs) and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, EVEN the elect. **25 See, I have told you beforehand.**" (There's more on the audio)

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 MANY will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

It's easy to identify someone as a false prophet if they're into voodoo. But someone doing wonders in Jesus' name? Much harder.

Don't base your conclusion of whether someone is a true prophet or not, on their miracles, healings, and charisma. Remember, there's no record of John the Baptist doing a single miracle. False prophets can be part of your church, looking like regular church members, like part of the flock of God's sheep!

It doesn't matter how NICE they might sound. Look at fruit!

Matthew 7:15-20

"BEWARE of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. = 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them."

(More explanation on the audio about fruit of our spiritual life. None of us is perfect and totally sinless but we must be living more and more by the spirit, and not by the flesh.)

False teachers can appear as angels/messengers of light -- as Satan did, and even took the name "LUCIFER, Light bringer". 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. Satan's real Hebrew name was actually **HEYLEL, day star, morning star – **Isaiah 14:12.****

There's also a coming end-time false prophet prophesying at the same time as GOD'S two Witnesses. The Military Beast power, supported by the False Prophet, will battle and eventually kill the Two witnesses, two prophets prophesying in Jerusalem (**Revelation 11**). They will lie dead for three and a half days until they are resurrected just before the 7th trumpet (**Rev. 11:7-14, 15**). Then when Christ returns, He captures the false prophet and The Beast leader.

The Beast is the economic, military, political leader of much of the world. He's probably alive now but we don't know who he is yet as of 2024.

Revelation 19:20

"Then the Beast was captured, and with him the FALSE PROPHET who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were **cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone (sulfur)."**

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and The Man of Sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that HE is God.”

I believe there will be a third temple in Jerusalem before Christ returns (more on audio, 38-39 min mark).

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of SATAN, with ALL POWER, SIGNS, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

Revelation 13:11-18

*“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a **dragon**. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first Beast in his presence, and causes the **EARTH and those who dwell** in it **to worship the first beast**, whose deadly wound was healed. [Assasination attempt?]*

13 He [the false prophet] performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

14 And he DECEIVES those who dwell on the earth by those SIGNS which he was granted to do in the sight of the Beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

15 He was GRANTED POWER to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

[Yes, we are living in “Bible times” and we’re going to do a repeat of the faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. We are Living in “Bible times”. More on audio about this Beast – 39-42 minute mark. Our lives can be in danger.]

16 He CAUSES ALL, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their

foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: **His number is 666.**”

Are you seeing why it's so important to be on guard against false prophets and to know how to recognize them? Don't be so quick to give so much of your time to self-proclaimed prophets! Your own life will be on the line! Jesus said to us – “BEWARE of False prophets...” So obey that word.

I believe there will be some of the children of God who will be put into a Place of Safety, to “their place” in the wilderness (**Rev. 12:13-17**). You can also look up “**Place of Safety**” in the Search Bar to study a whole sermon on this concept.

Revelation 11 describes the great battle between TWO FINAL true prophets, called **the 2 Witnesses** – who are bringing on PLAGUES on the whole earth – versus the great FALSE PROPHET tied to the Beast power, calling down fire from heaven like Elijah of old did. Two on two.

Revelation 11:3-6

“And I will give power to MY two witnesses, and they will PROPHECY one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”

4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth [Zechariah 4]. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, **fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies.** And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the EARTH with ALL PLAGUES, as often as they desire.”

The big showdown is coming before long between the Beast Power /False Prophet versus God's Two Witnesses. I for one do NOT assume the false prophet has to be a Pope. Maybe, maybe not. They will be able to deceive the majority and bring much of the whole world (Rev 13:14,16) under the Beast system – the New World Order of that time.

Whether the Beast system is centered in Europe – or somewhere else like an Islamic connection, time will tell. I lean against the Islamic Anti-Christ idea.

Be willing to pivot from what you thought would happen if you have to when it becomes clear. I like to say, “ride loose in the saddle”.

Jesus said to “BEWARE of False Prophets”. So you need to get real good at recognizing true and false prophets, which I’ll cover thoroughly in Part 2 of this two part sermon. So we need to wake up, be on guard, realize the seriousness of this.

Don’t watch shows that focus on false prophets unknowingly. No false prophet has ever probably stood up and said, “I proclaim Jesus but you should all know I am a false prophet”. So WE have to get good at determining that ourselves.

One show that hosts prophet after prophet is **SID ROTH’S Supernatural TV broadcast.** *I’ll bet a lot of you watch his show. Don’t. He features one after the other, who claim God spoke to them in a dream, vision, audibly or some other way.* But I’m told that at least eight of them came on the show in 2016 to proclaim God told them that Trump would win – and not just in 2016 **but also in 2020; two consecutive terms.** That did NOT happen in 2020. So they are FALSE prophets because what they prophesied did NOT happen. God did NOT speak to any of them. God did NOT send them. They lied, according to what God says in Jeremiah 23.

Too many of you are not hearing this clearly enough. DO NOT WATCH and do not listen to or be intrigued by false prophets. Listen carefully to part 2 so you learn who are the false ones. Do not let your curiosity get the most of you. Many of them are great speakers, men and women who can hold your attention. **Obey Jesus’ words. BEWARE of them.** Do not give them your ear. EVEN those, maybe even ESPECIALLY those, who proclaim Jesus and are having great healings – but do not really teach the Bible correctly. Or those who aren’t leading people to deep heart-felt repentance and to turn their lives around. **TRUE Prophets point people to yes – grace and favor of God – but also to a life of obedience of the commandments as 1 John 2:3-6 clearly tells us. True prophets are helping people turn their lives around back to the True Living God.**

In Part 2 of this talk, we’ll talk more about what GOD says about those who claim they heard from HIM, when He did not say anything to them or send them.

Please let others know about this sermon series and our website. And Again remember you can listen to my sermons any time you wish, around the world.

CLOSING PRAYER.