

Five Fold - Prophet 6 The False Prophet

Introduction:

The true characteristics of a true prophet are:

Ephesians 4:11-16

One of the functions of these gifts is to bring the body into maturity so that...(verse 14)

"We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting....."

Matt hew 7:15, 16

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits....." (Jesus speaking)

Matthew 24:11 – 12

"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many, and because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."

Matthew 24:24 – 25

"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand."

How could people get caught up or be deceived by a madman? It happened and can happen again in fact Jesus said that _____ false prophets would arise in the last days. False prophets know how to feed off people's _____! They can easily manipulate a crowd into carrying out their plans and purposes!

1 John 4:1 – 3

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world." ... (verse 5) They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them.

- False prophets are of the _____.

1 John 2:15 – 16

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Their internal position is governed by the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes and the pride of life – and these can be hidden underneath and disguised by fancy words which can draw people to themselves! Come follow me!!!!

Jeremiah 5:30 – 31

"An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land; the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?"

Characteristics of false prophets:

Jeremiah was a lone voice. The King of Babylon was conquering the land. The prophets of the land who often advised the King, declared the opposite with dreams and words that they knew the king wanted to hear.

It's called _____. The motive behind it is to win _____ and the _____ of men.

Unless a prophet has gone through God's process – His refining process where every part if wholly surrendered to Him, they will speak and promote their own _____.

Jeremiah 23:16 – 32

Vs 30 "who steal My words"

It a position of _____ and is exactly what *1 John 2:15-16* talks about.

Jeremiah 14:14

And the Lord said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their hearts."

Jeremiah 27:14-15 (very similar)

Lamentations 2:14

"Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions: they have not uncovered your iniquity, to bring back your captives, but have envisioned for you false prophecies and delusions."

- A false prophet will not bring the full _____ of God.

Luke 6:26

"Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets."

The old verse the new (old and new wine skins)

1 Kings 13:1 – 34

"I too am a prophet as you are"

_____ and a _____ spirit is very dangerous and in the hands of a prophet more so.

To _____ his position he has to lie and deceive the younger prophet who probably out of respect alters course. However in doing so costs him his life!

Matt 23:37a

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!"

The lying spirit.

1 Kings 22:1 – 28

- 400 prophets vs one man
- Vs 21 – 23 the true prophet sees a spirit who is sent from God to be a lying spirit in the mouths of the prophets.

Revelation 16:13 – 14

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Balaam

This is another unusual story which on the surface looks amazing but things aren't always what they seem: **Numbers 22, 23, 24 and the 25:3**

A list of Balaam's credentials:

- _____ – some say he was from the line of Abraham/Laban
- He has a _____ – King Balak of Moab sends for Balaam who lived some 360 miles north
- He has a _____ of God as when he uses God's name it is referring to Jehovah
- Says he can't be _____ – very honourable and trust worthy
- He _____ with God
- He has his eyes _____ (the donkey – saw into the heavenly realm – the angel)
- Who _____ the words of God and sees _____ of the Almighty
- He prophesies _____ – even declares about the Messiah!
- He goes home after blessing the Children of Israel – he has completed his task

Wow! What a man of God!!!!

_____ he has excellent qualities and looks the real deal.

Let's go deeper – _____ things aren't what they seem:

- He's a _____ – not answerable to anyone
- Prophets who feel _____ by men will often compromise their position in God.
- False prophets can _____ people away from God's plans and purposes and get them _____ in doing their "own ministry" – it's God's _____ best and can fragment the body rather than bringing the body together.
- False prophets can become _____ into thinking that their _____ is the _____ of God.

- False prophet's true _____ position will always be _____ at some point.

Jude 1:11

"Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah."

2 Peter 2:15

"They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked by a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restraining the madness of the prophet."

- A false prophet loves the _____ of men more than the praises of God.

Numbers 22:32b

"Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me."

- False prophets struggle to allow God to _____ or _____ them. They may cry out with many tears but fail to change just like King Saul. Prophets make mistakes, but unless they have a heart like David and truly repent, they will go through the _____ and continue along the same path.
- False prophets can hear and speak God's words accurately; however the _____ of truly knowing Him _____ in them can be _____ only.

Revelation 2:14

"But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the Children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality."

- False prophets put _____ before the people of God rather than bring them into the _____ God truly has on offer for them.
- False prophets know how to _____ the system to their own advantage.
- He almost got away with it. His blood money cost the lives of over twenty thousand people who died as a result of his advice! **Joshua 13:22** tells of Balaam's end.