

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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### **False Doctrine/Prophets**

"Woe to us if we do not preach the gospel, and even greater woe if we preach it in error." – Paul Washer

"Today's church cannot remain faithful if it tolerates false teachers and leaves their teachings uncorrected and unchallenged." – Albert Mohler

"People get so used to the dark that they think it's growing brighter. It's possible to fraternize with unbelievers until false doctrine becomes less and less objectionable." – Vance Havner

"It is the neglect of the Bible which makes so many a prey to the first false teacher whom they hear." – unknown

"The people who were honored in the Bible were the false prophets. It was the ones we call the prophets who were jailed and driven into the desert." – Noam Chomsky

It is difficult for us to fathom how someone who seems to be righteous, can be the bearer of false doctrine. Yet history is replete with example after example of those who misled others in their falsehood.

"Though they say, 'As the LORD lives, surely they swear falsely' (Jer. 5:2). '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' (Jer. 5:31)? 'For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD' (Jer. 29:9). In fact, twice in Jer. 26 the false prophets declared that Jeremiah deserved to die for prophesying against the city of Jerusalem.

Even our Lord warned of false prophets. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matt. 7:15). This reminds us of Paul's statement concerning Satan and his angels. "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works" (2 Cor. 11:14-15).

This provides a notable contradiction with the fantasies put out by Hollywood. They often give us the notion that Satan and his followers are so obvious and in your face. Yet, the Bible clearly reminds us, "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made..." (Gen. 3:1). This is why false teachers spew out false doctrine and people don't realize it, for they don't know their Bibles!

"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" (1 John 4:1).