



THE MINISTRY OF A PROPHET

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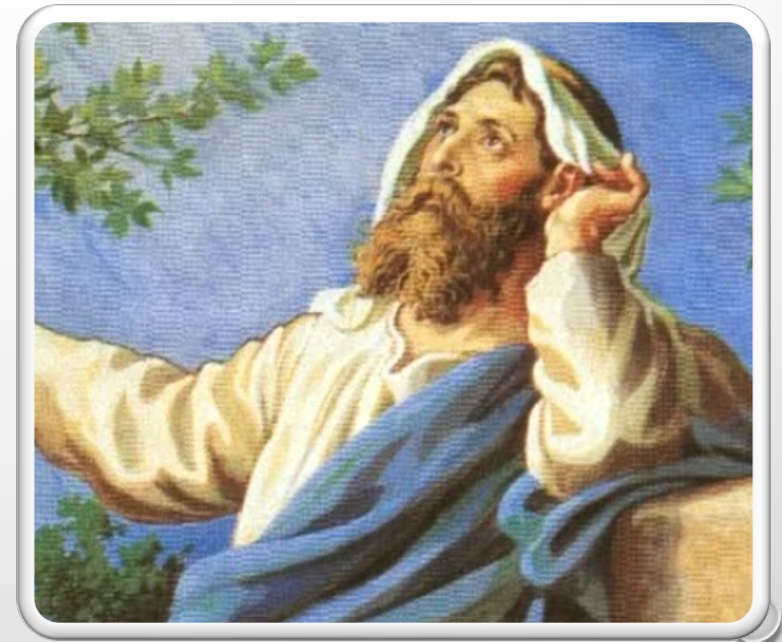
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THE MEANING OF THE WORD PROPHET IN THE BIBLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- STRONG'S REFERENCE: 1277A נָבִיא (NABI') MEANING **"SPOKESMAN, SPEAKER, PROPHET"**.
- **THE HEBREW MEANING IS LITERALLY TO "BUBBLE UP" – LIKE A SPRING, OR LIKE WATER BOILING** (SEE JOHN 7:38 – *"OUT OF YOUR BELLY SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF WATER"*)
- **THE WORD APPEARS 227 TIMES IN THE BIBLE**
- **OTHER WORDS TRANSLATED PROPHET ARE "SEER"** (2095B רֹאֶה RO'EH) ו, **SEER**.
- **"SOOTHSAYER" IN THE CASE OF THE FALSE PROPHET BALAAM.** (2044A קֶסֶם KOSEM) קֶסֶם (QESem) DIVINATION, WITCHCRAFT.

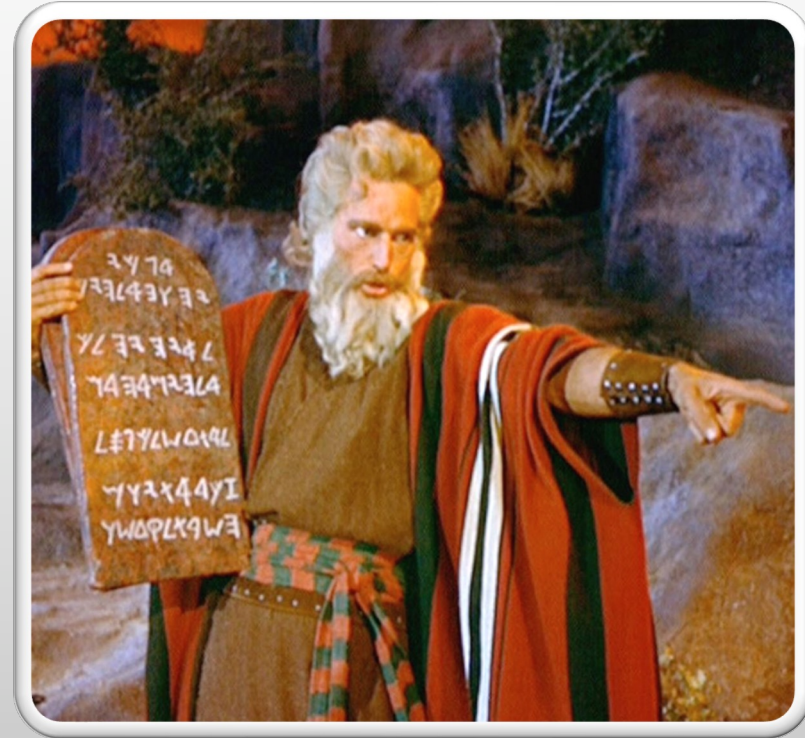
PROPHET, SEER, DIVINER

- A TRUE PROPHET OF GOD RECEIVED THE “WORD OF THE LORD” IN AN AUDIBLE VOICE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.
- MANY PROPHETS WOULD SEE VISIONS AND DREAMS AND RECEIVE REVELATIONS FROM GOD.
- THEY WERE CALLED “SEERS” BECAUSE THEY SAW THINGS THAT OTHER PEOPLE DID NOT SEE FROM THE TIME OF SAMUEL (1 SAMUEL 9:9)
- DIVINERS USE ‘DIVINATION’ OR CONTACT WITH “FAMILIAR SPIRITS” OR DEMONS TO PROPHECY. THEY WERE NOT OF GOD. BALAAM IS AN EXAMPLE. HE FELL FROM BEING A PROPHET OF GOD TO A SOOTHSAYER (DIVINER) BECAUSE OF HIS DISOBEDIENCE AND LOVE OF MONEY. (JOSHUA 13:22)



PURPOSE OF THE PROPHET

- THE PROPHET IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS A SPOKESMAN FOR GOD.
- HE SPOKE IN GOD'S NAME AND UNDER HIS AUTHORITY (EXODUS 7:1)
- HE IS THE MOUTH BY WHICH GOD SPEAKS TO MEN (JER. 1:9; ISA. 51:16), AND HENCE WHAT THE PROPHET SAYS IS NOT OF MAN BUT OF GOD (2 PET. 1:20, 21)
- IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, ANY ONE BEING A SPOKESMAN FOR GOD TO MAN MIGHT THUS BE CALLED A PROPHET.
- ENOCH, ABRAHAM, THE OLD TESTAMENT PATRIARCHS, AND MOSES WERE ALL PROPHETS.



THE PROPHETIC ORDER

- THE “ORDER” OF THE PROPHETS BEGAN WITH THE PROPHET SAMUEL.
- SCHOOLS OF THE PROPHETS WERE ESTABLISHED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT TO TRAIN MEN FOR THE PROPHETIC OFFICE.
- THESE YOUNG MEN WERE TAUGHT NOT ONLY THE RUDIMENTS OF SECULAR KNOWLEDGE, BUT THEY WERE BROUGHT UP TO EXERCISE THE OFFICE OF PROPHET, “TO PREACH PURE MORALITY AND THE HEART-FELT WORSHIP OF JEHOVAH, AND TO ACT ALONG AND COORDINATELY WITH THE PRIESTHOOD AND MONARCHY IN GUIDING THE STATE ARIGHT AND CHECKING ALL ATTEMPTS AT ILLEGALITY AND TYRANNY.”

MAJOR AND MINOR PROPHETS IN THE BIBLE

- THERE ARE 16 OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS, WHOSE PROPHECIES FORM PART OF THE INSPIRED CANON. THESE ARE DIVIDED INTO FOUR GROUPS:
- (1.) THE PROPHETS OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM (ISRAEL), ARE HOSEA, AMOS, JOEL, JONAH.
- (2.) THE PROPHETS OF JUDAH (THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM), ARE ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, OBADIAH, MICAH, NAHUM, HABAKKUK, ZEPHANIAH.
- (3.) THE PROPHETS OF CAPTIVITY, ARE EZEKIEL AND DANIEL.
- (4.) THE PROPHETS OF THE RESTORATION, ARE HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, AND MALACHI.
- THE “MAJOR PROPHETS” (ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, EZEKIEL, AND DANIEL) HAD LONGER PROPHETIC BOOKS IN THE BIBLE.
- THE “MINOR PROPHETS” HAD SHORTER BOOKS. THE TERM HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT THEY WROTE.

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETIC MINISTRY

- OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS PREDICTED THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST (ISAIAH 53)
- THEY WOULD TURN THE NATION OF ISRAEL AWAY FROM IDOLATRY TO SERVE THE TRUE GOD (1 KINGS 18)
- THEY WOULD BRING REBUKE AND CORRECTION TO KINGS, PRIESTS, OTHER PROPHETS, AND TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD (2 SAMUEL 12:7)
- THEY WOULD ANOINT KINGS INTO THEIR OFFICE AS RULER (1 KINGS 19:16)
- THEY WOULD EDIFY AND COMFORT THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN TIMES OF TRIAL AND TRIBULATION (ISAIAH 40:1)
- THEY WOULD OFTEN BE INVOLVED IN WORSHIP AND IN THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC FOR THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP OF GOD (2 KINGS 3:15)
- THEY WOULD TEACH THE PEOPLE WHAT THE LORD TOLD THEM OR SHOWED THEM (EZEKIEL 44:23)

PROPHETS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- NEW TESTAMENT PROPHETS ARE PART OF THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY THAT JESUS CHRIST GAVE TO HIS CHURCH WHEN HE RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD AND ASCENDED TO HEAVEN
- EPHESIANS 4:11-13 “AND HE GAVE SOME, APOSTLES; AND SOME, **PROPHETS**; AND SOME, EVANGELISTS; AND SOME, PASTORS AND TEACHERS; ¹² FOR THE PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS, FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY, FOR THE EDIFYING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST: ¹³ TILL WE ALL COME IN THE UNITY OF THE FAITH, AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, UNTO A PERFECT MAN, UNTO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULNESS OF CHRIST...”
- THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY **DID NOT END** WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, OR WITH THE CLOSE OF THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH.

FUNCTIONS OF A NEW TESTAMENT PROPHET

- PROPHETS FORETELL EVENTS BEFORE THEY HAPPEN, AS THE SPIRIT OF GOD REVEALS THEM. (AMOS 3:7) “SURELY THE LORD GOD WILL DO NOTHING, BUT HE REVEALETH HIS SECRET UNTO HIS SERVANTS THE PROPHETS.”
- PROPHETS GIVE PROPHETIC WORDS TO INDIVIDUALS, TO OTHER MINISTERS, TO CHURCHES AND TO NATIONS (REV. 10:11) “AND HE SAID UNTO ME, THOU MUST PROPHECY AGAIN BEFORE MANY PEOPLES, AND NATIONS, AND TONGUES, AND KINGS.”
- PROPHETS DECLARE THE WILL, PLANS AND PURPOSES OF GOD (ISA. 21:6) “FOR THUS HATH THE LORD SAID UNTO ME, GO, SET A WATCHMAN, LET HIM DECLARE WHAT HE SEETH.”

FUNCTIONS OF A NEW TESTAMENT PROPHET

- PROPHETS EXPOSE SIN IN THE PEOPLE OF GOD AND CALL THEM TO REPENTANCE (ISA. 58:1) “CRY ALOUD, SPARE NOT, LIFT UP THY VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET, AND SHEW MY PEOPLE THEIR TRANSGRESSION, AND THE HOUSE OF JACOB THEIR SINS.”
- PROPHETS ARE VERY OFTEN INTERCESSORS, PRAYING FOR GOD’S PEOPLE AND FOR NATIONS (ISA. 62:6) “I HAVE SET WATCHMEN UPON THY WALLS, O JERUSALEM, WHICH SHALL NEVER HOLD THEIR PEACE DAY NOR NIGHT: YE THAT MAKE MENTION OF THE LORD, KEEP NOT SILENCE...”
- PROPHETS ARE OFTEN CALLED TO ENCOURAGE AND STRENGTHEN THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE NT (ACTS 15:32) “AND JUDAS AND SILAS, BEING PROPHETS ALSO THEMSELVES, EXHORTED THE BRETHREN WITH MANY WORDS, AND CONFIRMED THEM.”

FUNCTIONS OF A NEW TESTAMENT PROPHET

- PROPHETS ARE OFTEN INVOLVED IN WORSHIP OF GOD AND INSTRUCTING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN WORSHIP (1 COR. 14:29-33) “29 LET THE PROPHETS SPEAK TWO OR THREE, AND LET THE OTHER JUDGE. 30 IF ANYTHING BE REVEALED TO ANOTHER THAT SITTETH BY, LET THE FIRST HOLD HIS PEACE. 31 FOR YE MAY ALL PROPHECY ONE BY ONE, THAT ALL MAY LEARN, AND ALL MAY BE COMFORTED. 32 AND THE SPIRITS OF THE PROPHETS ARE SUBJECT TO THE PROPHETS. 33 FOR GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF CONFUSION, BUT OF PEACE, AS IN ALL CHURCHES OF THE SAINTS.”
- PROPHETS OFTEN GIVE DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE, PARTICULARLY TO RULERS AND LEADERS (1 SAM 22:5) “AND THE PROPHET GAD SAID UNTO DAVID, ABIDE NOT IN THE HOLD; DEPART, AND GET THEE INTO THE LAND OF JUDAH. THEN DAVID DEPARTED, AND CAME INTO THE FOREST OF HARETH.”
- THE PROPHET AGABUS GAVE DIRECTION TO THE APOSTLE PAUL (ACTS 11:28 AND 21:10)

FUNCTIONS OF A NEW TESTAMENT PROPHET

- PROPHETS ARE OFTEN HATED AND PERSECUTED BECAUSE THEY SPEAK FOR GOD (**HEB. 11:32-38**) “AND WHAT SHALL I MORE SAY? FOR THE TIME WOULD FAIL ME TO TELL OF GEDEON, AND OF BARAK, AND OF SAMSON, AND OF JEPHTHAH; OF DAVID ALSO, AND SAMUEL, AND OF THE PROPHETS: 33 WHO THROUGH FAITH SUBDUED KINGDOMS, WROUGHT RIGHTEOUSNESS, OBTAINED PROMISES, STOPPED THE MOUTHS OF LIONS, 34 QUENCHED THE VIOLENCE OF FIRE, ESCAPED THE EDGE OF THE SWORD, OUT OF WEAKNESS WERE MADE STRONG, WAXED VALIANT IN FIGHT, TURNED TO FLIGHT THE ARMIES OF THE ALIENS. 35 WOMEN RECEIVED THEIR DEAD RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN: AND OTHERS WERE TORTURED, NOT ACCEPTING DELIVERANCE; THAT THEY MIGHT OBTAIN A BETTER RESURRECTION: 36 AND OTHERS HAD TRIAL OF CRUEL MOCKINGS AND SCOURGINGS, YEA, MOREOVER OF BONDS AND IMPRISONMENT: 37 THEY WERE STONED, THEY WERE SAWN ASUNDER, WERE TEMPTED, WERE SLAIN WITH THE SWORD: THEY WANDERED ABOUT IN SHEEPSKINS AND GOATSKINS; BEING DESTITUTE, AFFLICTED, TORMENTED; 38 (OF WHOM THE WORLD WAS NOT WORTHY:) THEY WANDERED IN DESERTS, AND IN MOUNTAINS, AND IN DENS AND CAVES OF THE EARTH.”
- **MATT. 23:37** O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM, *THOU* THAT KILLEST **THE PROPHETS**, AND **STONEST** THEM WHICH ARE SENT UNTO THEE, HOW OFTEN WOULD I HAVE GATHERED THY CHILDREN TOGETHER, EVEN AS A HEN GATHERETH HER CHICKENS UNDER *HER* WINGS, AND YE WOULD NOT!

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT TO EQUIP YOU FOR THIS OFFICE

- (1 COR. 12:7) BUT THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT IS GIVEN TO EVERY MAN TO PROFIT WITHAL.
⁸ FOR TO ONE IS GIVEN BY THE SPIRIT THE **WORD OF WISDOM**; TO ANOTHER THE **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE** BY THE SAME SPIRIT; ⁹ TO ANOTHER FAITH BY THE SAME SPIRIT; TO ANOTHER THE GIFTS OF HEALING BY THE SAME SPIRIT; ¹⁰ TO ANOTHER THE WORKING OF MIRACLES; TO ANOTHER **PROPHECY**; TO ANOTHER DISCERNING OF SPIRITS; TO ANOTHER *DIVERS* KINDS OF TONGUES; TO ANOTHER THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES: ¹¹ BUT ALL THESE WORKETH THAT ONE AND THE SELFSAME SPIRIT, DIVIDING TO EVERY MAN SEVERALLY AS HE WILL.
- **UTTERANCE GIFTS** – PROPHECY, SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES, INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES
- **REVELATION GIFTS** – WORD OF WISDOM, WORD OF KNOWLEDGE, DISCERNING OF SPIRITS
- **POWER GIFTS** – GIFT OF (WONDER WORKING) FAITH, WORKING OF MIRACLES, GIFTS OF HEALING

TRUE PROPHETS OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- TO BE A TRUE PROPHET OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, YOU HAVE TO HAVE TWO OF THE **REVELATION GIFTS PLUS THE GIFT OF PROPHECY** OPERATE IN YOUR MINISTRY ON A REGULAR BASIS.
- **WORD OF WISDOM** – THE ABILITY TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE AND UNDERSTAND THE WILL, THE PLAN, AND THE PURPOSES OF GOD.
- **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE** – SUPERNATURAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PAST OR THE PRESENT.
- TRUE NT PROPHETS HAVE TO BE CALLED BY GOD AND EQUIPPED FOR THIS OFFICE.

SIMPLE GIFT OF PROPHECY VS THE PROPHETIC OFFICE

- **1 COR. 14:3** BUT HE THAT PROPHESEIETH SPEAKETH UNTO MEN TO **EDIFICATION, AND EXHORTATION, AND COMFORT.**
- LET THE PROPHETS SPEAK TWO OR THREE, AND LET THE OTHER JUDGE. ³⁰ IF *ANY THING* BE REVEALED TO ANOTHER THAT SITTETH BY, LET THE FIRST HOLD HIS PEACE. ³¹ FOR YE MAY **ALL PROPHECY** ONE BY ONE, THAT **ALL** MAY LEARN, AND **ALL** MAY BE COMFORTED. ³² AND THE SPIRITS OF THE PROPHETS ARE SUBJECT TO THE PROPHETS. ³³ FOR GOD IS NOT *THE AUTHOR* OF CONFUSION, BUT OF PEACE, AS IN ALL CHURCHES OF THE SAINTS.

• SOURCES OF WHAT WE MAY PERCEIVE AS PROPHECY •

- THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD – HIS SPIRIT COMMUNICATES TO YOUR SPIRIT VIA THE “STILL SMALL VOICE”, OR VIA AN AUDIBLE VOICE, DREAMS, VISIONS, TRANCES, THEOPHANIES, CHRISTOPHANIES, ANGELS, ETC.
- PROGNOSTICATION – KNOWLEDGE OBTAINED BY NATURAL SENSES, USED TO PREDICT THE FUTURE, BASED ON PRESENT-TENSE OBSERVATION, STUDY, HUMAN KNOWLEDGE, ETC. THIS MAY INCLUDE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION FROM THE MILITARY OR THE DEEP STATE, MASKING AS PREDICTIVE PROPHECY.
- DIVINATION – KNOWLEDGE FROM FAMILIAR SPIRITS, THE OCCULT, DEMONS, ETC. CLAIMING TO BE OF GOD. (SEE ACTS 16:16)

OLD TESTAMENT VS NEW TESTAMENT PROPHETS

- IN THE OT, GOD SPOKE TO PROPHETS THROUGH AN AUDIBLE VOICE, OR THROUGH VISIONS AND DREAMS, AND SOMETIMES THROUGH THEOPHANIES OR CHRISTOPHANIES.
- IN THE OT, YOUR PREDICTIVE PROPHECIES HAD TO BE RIGHT 100% OF THE TIME, OR YOU WOULD BE CONSIDERED A FALSE PROPHET. (JER. 14:14)
- FALSE PROPHETS COULD BE STONED TO DEATH. (LEV. 20:27)
- IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, GOD DOES NOT OFTEN SPEAK AUDIBLY. INSTEAD, HE SPEAKS THROUGH A “STILL SMALL VOICE” TO A BORN-AGAIN MAN OR WOMAN’S SPIRIT.
- THEREFORE, NEW TESTAMENT PROPHETS CAN SOMETIMES “MISS IT” – UTTER PROPHECY THAT ORIGINATES FROM THEIR OWN MIND OR HEART, NOT FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.

HOW DO YOU KNOW FALSE PROPHETS?

- **MATT. 7:15** BEWARE OF **FALSE PROPHETS**, WHICH COME TO YOU IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING, BUT INWARDLY THEY ARE RAVENING WOLVES. ¹⁶ YE SHALL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS. DO MEN GATHER GRAPES OF THORNS, OR FIGS OF THISTLES? ¹⁷ EVEN SO EVERY GOOD TREE BRINGETH FORTH GOOD FRUIT; BUT A CORRUPT TREE BRINGETH FORTH EVIL FRUIT. ¹⁸ A GOOD TREE CANNOT BRING FORTH EVIL FRUIT, NEITHER CAN A CORRUPT TREE BRING FORTH GOOD FRUIT. ¹⁹ EVERY TREE THAT BRINGETH NOT FORTH GOOD FRUIT IS HEWN DOWN, AND CAST INTO THE FIRE. ²⁰ WHEREFORE BY THEIR FRUITS YE SHALL KNOW THEM.

NT WARNINGS ABOUT FALSE PROPHETS

- **MATT. 24:11** AND MANY **FALSE PROPHETS** SHALL RISE, AND SHALL DECEIVE MANY.
- **MATT. 24:24** FOR THERE SHALL ARISE FALSE CHRISTS, AND **FALSE PROPHETS**, AND SHALL SHEW GREAT SIGNS AND WONDERS; INSOMUCH THAT, IF *IT WERE* POSSIBLE, THEY SHALL DECEIVE THE VERY ELECT.
- **MARK 13:22** FOR FALSE CHRISTS AND **FALSE PROPHETS** SHALL RISE, AND SHALL SHEW SIGNS AND WONDERS, TO SEDUCE, IF *IT WERE* POSSIBLE, EVEN THE ELECT.
- **LUKE 6:26** WOE UNTO YOU, WHEN ALL MEN SHALL SPEAK WELL OF YOU! FOR SO DID THEIR FATHERS TO THE **FALSE PROPHETS**.
- **2PET. 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 THAT BOUGHT THEM, AND BRING UPON THEMSELVES SWIFT DESTRUCTION.
- **1JOHN 4:1** BELOVED, BELIEVE NOT EVERY SPIRIT, BUT TRY THE SPIRITS WHETHER THEY ARE OF GOD: BECAUSE MANY **FALSE PROPHETS** ARE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD.

FALSE PROPHETS

- ARE WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING (MAT. 7:15)
- LEAD PEOPLE AWAY FROM THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD (DEUT. 13:5)
- BRING GLORY TO THEMSELVES (2 COR. 4:5)
- THEY DECEIVE GOD'S PEOPLE (MAT. 24:11)
- THEY BRING IN DAMNABLE HERESIES TO THE CHURCH (2 PET. 2:1)
- THEY MAY SHOW SIGNS AND WONDERS TO SEDUCE THE PEOPLE OF GOD (MAT 24:24)
- THEY ARE OFTEN SPOKEN WELL OF BY MULTITUDES OF PEOPLE (LUKE 6:26)
- THEIR PREDICTIONS OF FUTURE EVENTS DO NOT COME TO PASS (DEUT. 18:22)
- DO NOT HEAR FROM GOD, BUT PROPHECY OUT OF THEIR OWN MINDS OR HEARTS (JER. 14:14)
- MAY MINISTER CONDEMNATION, BUT NOT THE REPROVING OR THE CONVICTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. (JOHN 16:8). THEY ARE OFTEN VERY CRITICAL OF OTHER MINISTERS AND OTHER CHRISTIANS.

TRUE PROPHECY

- **REV. 19:10** AND I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM. AND HE SAID UNTO ME, SEE *THOU DO IT NOT*: I AM THY FELLOWSERVANT, AND OF THY BRETHREN THAT HAVE THE **TESTIMONY** OF JESUS: WORSHIP GOD: FOR **THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.**

