FALSE PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES

2 PET. 2:1-22; JER. 23:9-40; 2PET. 1:19-21
# Table of Content

1. **INTRODUCTION** ................................................................. 2  
2. **IMPORTANT NOTE** .......................................................... 3  
3. **THE TENDENCY OF FALSE PROPHETS AND TEACHERS **.... 5  
4. **RECOGNISING FALSE PROPHETS AND THEIR TEACHINGS **... 6  
5. **THE CONSEQUENCES OF FALSE PROPHECIES **.................... 7  
6. **JEREMIAH'S PORTRAIT OF FALSE PROPHETS AND THEIR**  
**TEACHINGS IN HIS DAYS **.................................................... 8  
7. **EXAMPLES OF FALSE PROPHETS AND FALSE TEACHERS**  
**IN NEW TESTAMENT** .......................................................... 9  
8. **THE END OF FALSE PROPHETS, TEACHERS AND THEIR**  
**FOLLOWERS** ....................................................................... 10  
9. **OUR RESPONSE TO FALSE PROPHETS AND TEACHERS **..... 10  
10. **CONCLUSION** ................................................................. 11
1. **INTRODUCTION** (2 Thess. 2:7-12)

False prophets, teachers and their prophecies or teaching are not new to the church. In fact, the Bible says that they shall be many (Matt. 24:11). The first time falsehood appeared in scriptures was in Genesis chapter 3. Before this time everything God created was good, in a state of perfection without error. Then the tempter, deceiver, liar came with his subtility and falsehood to steal and to kill and to destroy. Gen. 3:1-24; Rev. 12:9, Jn. 8:44; 10:10; I Thess. 2:3-15.

Every falsehood in the church today has its root and origin in Satan deliberate falsifications of the word of God. (Gen. 3:1; Lk. 4:1-14). Ignorance, misunderstanding and misinterpretation of scriptures including lying wonders is the ladder employed to lead many into errors (Acts 20:27-32; I Thes. 2:9). The Lord in Matt. 7:15 said that we should beware of false prophets who come to us in sheep clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. These prophets, enabled by the devil, abound in the church today and their words are cancerous, quietly and surely eating deep into the fabrics of church people lives. Apostle Paul gave a warning in I Tim. 6:5 “...from such withdraw thyself.” Apostle Jude also exhorts that we “should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints.” (Jude 3). Unfortunately the church today is full of men and women waiting and willing to be deceived.
As it was in the time of old, when they said to prophet Isaiah in Isa. 30:10 “Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits,” so it is today. For the time has come when men will not endure sound doctrine, but will go around looking for teachers and prophets who will tell them just what they want to hear, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth (2Tim. 4:3-4). The challenge today is not just false prophets and prophecies, but church people who are willing to pay any price for falsehood (Jer. 5:31).

2. IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT FALSE PROPHETS AND TEACHERS

i. Some may be enthusiastic and overemphatic about a biblical truth without being a false teacher or prophet. Acts 18:24-28

ii. Historically error tends to easily catch-up with enthusiastic and passionate believers.

iii. Dogmatic Christians seem to easily veer off than others.

iv. The unlearned, unwilling and self conceits easily stray from the truth. 2Tim. 3:6-8, Heb. 5:12-14.

V. Lack of experience and self righteousness can easily lead one astray. 1Tim. 3:6.
Vi. Trying to walk in the spirit without thorough knowledge of the word can easily lead to error. 1Tim. 2:3-4; ICor. 3:1-3; ICor. 14:37.

Vii. Desire to attract, please and be applauded by men easily lead into falsehood. I Thess. 2:3-7; Gal. 1:10; Phil 2:1-5.

Viii. Mere imitation and seeking to be like others can lead astray. ITim. 6:5; 2Thess. 3:7-9.

Ix. Desire to make it financially, materially or be a crowd puller, can lead astray. Tit. 1:10-16, Jude 11; I Tim. 6:9-12, 2Pet.2:1-3/14-22, Mic 3:11

X. Desire to lead and be a head without corresponding knowledge, maturity and exposure can lead astray. I Cor. 3:1-3; 1Tim. 3:6

Xi. Unwillingness to be under authority and the tendency to be authoritative can lead to falsehood 3Jn 1; 2Tim. 3:8-9; 2Pet. 9-10; I Pet.5:1-4; Matt. 23:1-12.

Xii. Inability to judge and interpret spiritual utterances and messages lead astray. I Jn 4:1-6; ICor. 2:15; Eph. 1:18.

Xiii. Professionalism and self acclamation can lead to falsehood.

Xiv. Over indulgence and dependence on commentaries, extra biblical writings and controversial historical facts can also lead to falsehood. 2Tim. 3:16-17

Xv. Secret faults, presumptuous and unconfessed sins in

Xvi. Substituting dreams, visions and preaching of terrestrial travels reports and stories from the dead as the word of God. 2Cor. 12:1-4; Jer. 23:28-31

3. **THE TENDENCIES OF FALSE PROPHETS AND TEACHERS**

i. They appear spiritual but they are not genuinely spiritual. They are given to outward shows. Matt. 7:15-23; I Cor. 2:11-16; 2Tim. 3:5; I Sam 16:7.

ii. They tamper with God's word, revelations, and orthodox teachings of God, making it more gullible and palatable. Jer. 23:32-36.

iii. They subtly encourage their listeners to risk displeasing God by lowering God's standards or introduce new standard entirely. Rom. 1:32.

iv. They tend to arrogate power to themselves and seek to please men than God for profits. Gal. 1:9-11; I Thess. 2:3-6.

V. Their words do not come true except by coincidence or demonic manipulations. When their words seem to come true, they idolize and use the 'testimony' unduly. Deut. 13:1-5/18:22; Matt. 24:25.

Vi. Most times they are vocal using bold face without shame and without good conscience towards God and men. Acts

CHAPL OF GOODNEWS, 28/30 Tafawa Balewa Way, Kaduna
24:16.
Vii. They defend vehemently their position and predictions than giving the glory to God. So, they speak more about themselves and achievements than God. Prov. 28:1-2; 2Cor. 4:5; Jn 3:27-34; 5:31-33.

Viii. They arrogantly ignore established rules of biblical interpretations, decorum, contexts and “hup-about” scriptures so “doting about words.” 2Pet 3:14-18, 1Tim. 6:3-4.

Ix. Their messages are majorly maintenance in nature than being kingdom minded. Matt. 6:33; Acts 28:31.

X. Most times the messages are demonic, cultural and intellectually inspired instead of Holy Spirit given. Isa. 8:19-20; Jn 16:7-15.

xi. They are too quick to assert God said, 'God revealed to me 'and God told me. Jer. 23:28-32/29:21-23.

xii. Their messages and teachings are in vogue and fashionable. They keep adjusting or changing their messages and minds about their believes - Psalm 33:9-11.

4. RECOGNISING FALSE PROPHETS AND THEIR TEACHING?

Matt. 7:15-23.
1. Knowledge and commitment to the truth as recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Ps. 119:105.
2. What does he says, teaches and believe about Christ Jesus? I Jn. 4:1-5


5. What are his belief, attitudes and disposition on
   ii. Money and material possessions? I Tim. 6:6-12
   iii. Marriage and the opposite sex. 1Cor. 7:1-16; Rom. 7:1-3.
   iv. Soul winning and the great commission- Matt. 28:19-20
   v. The basic doctrines of sin, salvation, the coming of Christ judgement to come, etc.
   vi. The doctrine of heaven and hell.

6. What does he say about himself or ministry? Jn. 1:19-37

5. THE CONSEQUENCES OF FALSE PROPHECIES AND TEACHINGS

1. Wrong beliefs and behaviour in the body 1 Tim. 1:18-21.

4. Strange happenings, deaths and derailments among God's people- Deut. 13:5; Matt. 7:15.
5. Jeopardising of eternity and heaven.
6. Demonic invasions and control of the church - 1Tim. 4:1-5.
7. Pervading corruption and dislocation in society in general.
8. Outright rejection by God and enslavement like He did to Israelites in the Old Testament.

6. JEREMIAH'S PORTRAIT OF FALSE PROPHETS AND TEACHERS OF HIS DAY

1. They destroy, divide, scatter the people and cause confusion - Jer. 23:1-2.
2. They commit adultery and live by dishonesty, immoral and sensuality. - Jer. 23:11-14.
3. They were covetous and greedy - Jer. 8:10
4. They were given to profanity and wickedness - Jer. 23:11
5. They speak from their delusion and lie, not divine command - Jer. 23:11-16, 18.
6. They denied God's word and impending judgement - Jer. 6:14, 23:19; 28:15-17.
7. They offered temporary and partial relieve to serious problems Jer. 8:11

8. They told people what the people want to hear Jer. 23:17-18.

9. They wanted killing Jeremiah to stop the truth. Jer. 26:1-24

10. They were rebellious and will not heed God's warnings. Jer. 6:16-17.

7. EXAMPLES OF FALSE PROPHETS AND FALSE TEACHERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT


5. Soothsayers Acts 16:16-24

6. Mutilators of biblical truth Paul contended with them in his time. 2 Cor. 2:17, Phil 3:1-2; Col. 2:16-22.

7. Alexander, Hymeneaus and others 1Tim. 1:18-20, 2Tim.

9. Heretic preachers in both Peter and Jude 2 Pet. 2:1-22; Jude vs. 3:12.

10. Different false teachers indicted in the seven churches of Revelation 2-3.

11. The false prophet mentioned in Revelation 13

Beware least you are deceived. Mark 13:20-21, 23.

8. THE END OF FALSE PROPHETS TEACHERS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS


2. Final condemnation and eternal damnation in hell. Jude 4; Matt 7:15-19; Rev. 20:10

9. OUR RESPONSE TO FALSE PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES IN THESE LAST DAYS

1. Identify and recognise them by their fruits. Don't be deceived by their gifts.

2. Don't invite false and controversial teachers to your group or fellowship Meetings.
3. Don't watch their T.V programmes or visit their websites, you may be deceived.

4. Avoids their meetings, and when you are caught up in any false prophet's or teacher's programme, flee from such meetings and men.

5. Pray for the repentance of false prophets you know. Sometimes you may have to pray against some that their mouth may be stopped.

6. Do not fear false prophets and their prophecies, but obey biblical instructions.

7. Correct errors by diligently studying the scriptures to understanding its truth and making it plain to others.

8. Don't be drawn into arguments or quarrels over false prophets and their prophecies, but preach the word, correct, rebuke in season and out of season.

9. Recognise genuine prophets and teachers, and encourage them in their labour.

10. Pray continually for yourself, your fellowship and the church that the eyes of our understanding would be enlightened. Eph 1:15-23.

10. **CONCLUSION**
   Jesus said that we should look out, look inward and look up.

   **LOOK OUT** Watch out that we are not deceived  Matt. 24:4,
11,24

LOOK INWARD- Watch our hearts against cares of this life Lk 21:34-35.

LOOK UP  Watch in prayers for Christ return. Lk 21:28-33, 36

Maranatha!  Maranatha!!  Maranatha!!!
for counseling and prayer contact:

CHAPEL OF GOODNEWS
28/30 Tafawa Balewa Way, Kaduna.
0803 7006240, 0809 815 1024, 0802 359 3014