

The First False Prophet

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Following a prophecy Christ had given about himself (Mt. 23:39), and at a time when he was coming out of the Temple, his disciples came and began discussing the Temple buildings with him. Understandably, his disciples were curious about the timing of future events following the prophecy he declared to them.

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and his disciples came to him to show him the buildings of the temple. ²And Jesus said to them, "Do you see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Mt. 24:1-2; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

This was a dual prophecy by Jesus Christ, of which one part was fulfilled in 70 CE when the Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. There is another aspect yet to be fulfilled, however, the ability to understand this is linked to God's use of metaphoric words. Specifically, "stones" that can represent individuals as well as groups (1Pet. 2:5) but, for the purpose of this study, Christ's ability to accurately predict future events is in no doubt because what he said in Matthew 24:2 was fulfilled some 40 years later. Therefore, as defined by scripture, Jesus Christ is a true prophet of Almighty God, versus someone who is not.

When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid (SHD 1481; ***stand in awe*** – cf. Nu. 22:3; Dt. 1:17, 18:22) of him (Dt. 19:22; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

One of the points in Deuteronomy 19:22 is that false prophets want people to "stand in awe" of them as important figures. After all, if false prophets can convince people to believe their predictions, their "followers" will assume that these prophets have a special relationship with God who is providing them with secret knowledge. This lays the groundwork for false prophets to gain power and control over others. This same motive was exposed when a magician named Simon Magus wanted to purchase the power to anoint his followers with God's Holy Spirit.

But there was a certain man called **Simon**, who previously practiced sorcery (magic) in the city and **astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, ¹⁰to whom they all gave heed**, from the least to the greatest, **saying, "This man is the great power of God"** (Ac. 8:9-10; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, **he offered them money, ¹⁹saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."** ²⁰But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! ²¹You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. ²²Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart (motive) may be forgiven you. ²³For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity" (Ac. 8:18-23; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

While false prophets often acknowledge the existence and authority of God, their words and actions interfere with any potential relationship between their followers and God. The first false

prophet did exactly this when he implied a close relationship between himself and God, and then claimed to know God's motives.

And the woman said to the serpent (Satan; cf. Rev. 12:9), "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die."⁴ And the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die.**"⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:2-5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Was Satan's prophecy, that the woman would not die, fulfilled as he claimed or did she eventually die as her husband did?

So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died (Gen. 5:5).

Even if she outlived her husband, she would have died during the flood because only Noah, his wife, his sons and their wives survived.

And behold, I Myself am bringing the flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; and everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish My covenant with you (Noah); and you shall go into the ark – you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you (Gen. 6:17-18; Ed. note in parenthesis).

So the first false prophet was Satan because his prediction failed to come true. Not only that, but he lied to the woman by stating she would not die (Jn. 8:44). Had he learned from this and asked for God's forgiveness, he may have been restored in his relationship with God. Instead, he persisted with his claim that he could predict events before they occurred.

Here is another example,

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" ⁹So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹But now, **stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!**" (Job 1:8-11; emphasis added).



SO ALL THE DAYS THAT ADAM LIVED
WERE NINE HUNDRED AND THIRTY
YEARS; AND HE DIED.

[Genesis 5:5](#)

Did Satan's prophecy come to pass, or did Job praise God instead.

I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. ⁶Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes (Job 42:5-6).

Therefore Satan's prophecy was false because he did not curse God. However, Job's associates did not do so well.

....the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for **you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has**" (Job 42:7b; emphasis added).

Eliphaz and his two friends acted as "authorities" that knew the will of God better than Job. Claiming to know the will of God is associated with false prophets, especially when they make

predictions according to their own interpretations (2Pet. 1:20).

Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly (SHD 5039; *sin* – cf. Gen. 34:7; Dt. 22:21); because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has (Job 42:8; Ed. note in parenthesis).

As mentioned previously, Satan claimed to know the will of God, but lied (Gen. 3:4; cf. Jn. 8:44). False prophets in the human realm do the same thing, and actually lead people away from understanding God's truth correctly. Hence, the severity of the punishment according to God's law.

But **that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death**, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God.... (Dt. 13:5a; emphasis added).

But **the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak**, or who speaks in the name of other gods, **that prophet shall die** (Dt. 18:20; emphasis added).

The greatest "true prophet", other than Almighty God, was described by Moses.

And the Lord said to me (Moses): "What they have spoken is good. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and I will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. ¹⁹And it shall be that **whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him**" (Dt. 18:17-19; cf. Isa. 53:3; emphasis added).

Almighty God, the Father, confirmed that this prophet was His son, Jesus Christ.

And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. **Hear him!**" (Mk. 9:7; cf. Lk. 9:35; emphasis added).

Sadly, Christ's many prophetic statements were ignored or rejected by the majority of those who heard them.

He (Christ) is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and we hid, as it were, our faces from Him. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him (Isa. 53:3; Ed. note in parenthesis).

But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house" (Mk. 6:4).

Instead of seriously considering what Christ has to say, including his prophetic statements, mankind prefers to listen to false prophets who say things that appeal to human nature.

For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, **they heap up for themselves teachers**; ⁴and **they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables** (2Tim. 4:3-4; emphasis added).

This propensity to listen to false prophets is nothing new. It has been going on throughout the ages.

This is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the Lord; ¹⁰**Who says to the seers, "Do not see (God's truth)," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things, prophesy**

deceits (Isa. 30:9-10; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

One of the trends associated with the return of Jesus Christ is mentioned in the following prophecy,

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many (Mt. 24:12).

As it was Christ who proclaimed the above prophecy, and as it has already been proven that he is a true prophet of Almighty God, then what he said in Matthew 24:12 should be taken very seriously.

Of note, false prophets can be found in many sections of our society; not just in religious circles. Sometimes, it can be political authorities, members of the media, as well as various arts and entertainment celebrities. Therefore, those who make the following prediction, that Christ is not returning to rule this planet, can be from any or all of these groups.

.... scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep (died), all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation" (2Pet. 3:3b-4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

As many false prophets within religious organizations operate under the radar of mainstream media, they can issue outrageous prophecies to their followers with little, if any scrutiny. The goal of these prophetic statements is to create an environment where "followers" believe the leader has a special gift or relationship with God. This allows the leader to maintain control and, through a number of subtle means, discourage their "followers" from thinking for themselves. Thinking for oneself

includes examining scripture in order to arrive at a more accurate understanding of God's will.



THEN MANY FALSE PROPHETS WILL RISE
UP AND DECEIVE MANY.

Matthew 24:12

Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹**These** were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so** (Ac. 17:10-11; emphasis added).

Without thinking for themselves, and asking the appropriate questions, the followers of false prophets end up trusting the opinions, prophecies, and other interpretations of scripture as taught by their respective "prophet". At this point, they are dependent upon human leadership rather than developing a relationship of trust in the true leader of God's people, Jesus Christ (see study: Who Are The Little Children That Come to Christ?).

Scripture is clear that there are to be no human inter-mediators between God the Father, and those He has led to repentance. The only one delegated to act as a mediator is Jesus Christ. Again, this relationship is often interrupted by human leaders who act as false prophets and lead people away from the true head of God's church (Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18).

.... He (Christ) is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God (the Father) through him, since **he ever lives to make intercession for them** (Heb. 7:25b; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

For there is one God (the Father) and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus** (1Tim. 2:5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

So instead of relying on a false prophet, or human religious leader, each servant of God has the responsibility to work diligently at studying God's word, praying to Him, and occasionally fasting.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling** (Php. 2:12; emphasis added).

Be diligent to present yourselves approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth** (1Tim. 2:15; emphasis added).

And that from childhood you (Timothy) have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith (trusting God's word) which is (personified) in Christ Jesus (2Tim. 3:15; Ed. notes in parentheses).

But the days will come when the bridegroom (referring to Christ himself) will be taken away from them (the disciples), and **then they will fast** in those days (Mk. 2:20; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Because Satan was the first false prophet, and as he continues to broadcast many false predictions, he is able to deceive those who are in the process of being sanctified to serve God. An example of this occurred during Christ's ministry when Peter became an instrument through which Satan could declare the same false prophecy that he proclaimed to Eve.

From that time Jesus began to show to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, **and be killed**, and be raised again the third day. ²²Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord; **this shall not happen to you!**" ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are offense to me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men" (Mt. 16:21-23; emphasis added).

The context of "this shall not happen to you" was in response to Christ's previous statement that he was going to die at the hands of the Jewish religious leaders. Therefore, Satan's false prophecy that "this would not happen to Christ" was the same as his false prophecy to Eve in Genesis 3:4; "You will not surely die." In both cases death occurred, confirming that Satan was a false prophet and continues to be one.

As false prophecies are lies, and as Satan deceived a third of the angels by lying to them, it follows that he probably updates his prophecies as a means of keeping the fallen angels under his control.

His (Satan's) tail (lies; cf. Isa. 9:15) drew a third of the stars (angels; cf. Rev. 1:20b) of heaven and threw them to the earth... (Rev. 12:4a; Ed. notes in parenthesis).

(Satan) who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, **who would not release his prisoners** (Isa. 14:17; Ed. note in parenthesis emphasis added).

This is the same tactic used by many human religious leaders. They will issue a prophecy of some kind and when it doesn't come to fruition, they will simply update/revise it. The leader of one religious group predicted that Christ would return around the year 1975 and, when this did

not occur, his followers were given an alternative explanation.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1975_in_Prophecy!)

It is unfortunate that this leader was not brought into account for his false prophecy. Had his followers been more familiar with God's law, they would have concluded that his conduct was worthy of the death penalty (Dt. 13:5; 18:20).

Because Satan is the father of lies (Jn. 8:44), all his prophecies have failed and, by extension, any human leader who makes false prophetic announcements is lying and therefore under the influence of Satan. Those who are working to serve Almighty God must be vigilant, and exercise caution whenever they hear someone make a prophetic announcement.



**BE SOBER, BE VIGILANT; BECAUSE
YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL WALKS
ABOUT LIKE A ROARING LION, SEEKING
WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR.**

1 Peter 5:8

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 (1Jn. 4:1).

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1Pet. 5:8).

During the time of Jeremiah there was a false prophet who misled the people, and God dealt with him directly.

Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, "Hear now, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, but **you make this people trust in a lie.**" ¹⁶ "Therefore thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will cast you from the face of the earth. This

year you shall die, because **you have taught rebellion against the Lord.**" ¹⁷ So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month (Jer. 28:15-17).

Just as Hananiah taught rebellion against the Lord, so do today's false prophets. They make statements that do not represent the will of God, and they can only do this by misrepresenting themselves as "ministers of light" (2Cor. 11:13-15). This is a great deception, and it prevents those who believe these lies from having a proper relationship with the Only True God, and His son, Jesus Christ (Jn. 17:3; cf. Ps. 146:3).

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