

Not Every Prophecy is of God --- There are Many False Prophets and False Christs

- I. **Not every prophecy is of God.** (IKI 13:18), "because many false prophets are gone out into the world." JER 28:11, 15-17; MAT 24:11, 24 (MAR 13:22); LUK 6:26; Acts 13:6; 2PE 2:1; 1JO 4:1-3; REV 16:13; 19:20; 20:10
- A. "They speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord. They ... have perverted the words of the living God." JER 23:16, 36
 - B. They are not ordained of God, but are self-appointed. JER 14:14-15; 23:16-17, 21 ("I sent them not"); EZE 13:6; REV 2:20.
 - C. They may be speaking under the influence of a lying spirit (2 Chronicles 18:21), or presumptuously (DEU 18:20), from "the deceit of their own heart." JER 14:14; 23:16, 17, 21, 26; EZE 13:17
 - D. They speak lies (JER 23:25, 26, 32; 20:6; 29:31; ISA 9:15; MIC 2:11; ZEC 13:3), and in the name of the Lord (DEU 18:20; JER 14:14, 15; 23:25; MAT 7:22).
 - E. They speak soothing words to those in spiritual darkness and give false security to those who deserve rebuke. JER 23:16-17; LAM 2:14; LUK 6:26; John 15:19
 - F. Sometimes they are even hired to do their work! NEH 6:12, 13; MIC 3:11
 - G. Their punishment under the law was death. DEU 13:5; 18:20; JER 28:15-17; 29:31-32; ZEC 13:3
1. **DEU 13:5** "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, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.
 2. **DEU 18:20** "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." 21 "And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?'" — 22 "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 of him.
 3. **IKI 13:18** He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.' " (He was lying to him.)
 4. **2CH 18:21** "So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the Lord said, 'You shall persuade him and also prevail; go out and do so.'
 5. **NEH 6:12** Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.
 6. **MIC 3:11** Her heads judge for a bribe, Her priests teach for pay, And her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the Lord, and say, "Is not the Lord among us? No harm can come upon us."
 7. **EZE 13:6** "They have envisioned futility and false divination, saying, 'Thus says the Lord!' But the Lord has not sent them; yet they hope that the word may be confirmed.
 8. **JER 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 heart." 15 "Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who prophesy in My name, whom I did not send, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not be in this land'—'By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed!
 9. **JER 20:6** 'And you, Pashhur, and all who dwell in your house, shall go into captivity. You shall go to Babylon, and there you shall die, and be buried there, you and all your friends, to whom you have prophesied lies.' "
 10. **JER 23:16** Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the Lord." 17 They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The Lord has said, "You shall have peace"' ; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.' " 21 "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.
 11. **JER 23:16** Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the Lord." 36 "And the oracle of the Lord you shall mention no more. For every man's word will be his oracle, for you have perverted the words of the living God, the Lord of hosts, our God.
 12. **JER 23:25** "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!'" 26 "How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart," 27 "who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal.
 13. **JER 23:30** "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says the Lord, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor." 31 "Behold, I am against the prophets," says the Lord, "who use their tongues and say, 'He says.' " 32 "Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the Lord, "and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness." Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says the Lord.

14. **JER 28:11** And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Even so I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all nations within the space of two full years.’ ” And the prophet Jeremiah went his way. 15 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.
15. **JER 29:31** Send to all those in captivity, saying, Thus says the Lord concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite: **Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, and I have not sent him, and he has caused you to trust in a lie—** 32 **therefore thus says the Lord: Behold, I will punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his family:** he shall not have anyone to dwell among this people, nor shall he see the good that I will do for My people, says the Lord, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord.
16. **JER 29:31** Send to all those in captivity, saying, **Thus says the Lord concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite: Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, and I have not sent him, and he has caused you to trust in a lie—**
17. **LAM 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.**
18. **ISA 9:15** The elder and honorable, he is the head; **The prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail.**
19. **EZE 13:17** “Likewise, **son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people, who prophesy out of their own heart; prophesy against them,** 18 “and **say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Woe to the women who sew magic charms on their sleeves and make veils for the heads of people of every height to hunt souls!** Will you hunt the souls of My people, and keep yourselves alive?”
20. **MIC 2:11** **If a man should walk in a false spirit And speak a lie, saying, ‘I will prophesy to you of wine and drink,’ Even he would be the prattler of this people.**
21. **ZEC 13:3** **“It shall come to pass that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who begot him will say to him, ‘You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the Lord.’ And his father and mother who begot him shall thrust him through when he prophesies.**
22. **MAT 7:22** **“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’”**
23. **MAT 24:11** “Then **many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.** 24 “For **false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.**
24. **LUK 6:26** **Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets.**
25. **ACT 13:6** Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, **they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, 7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?” 11 “And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.” And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.**
26. **GAL 1:6** **I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.**
27. **2PE 2:1** But **there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.**
28. **IJO 4:1** **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.** 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 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.** 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
29. **REV 2:20** **“Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.**
30. **REV 16:13** 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.**
31. **REV 19:20** Then **the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.**
32. **REV 20:10** **The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

How can we distinguish the true from the false?

II. How can we distinguish the true from the false?

- A. Any ministry that does not exalt Jesus (REV 19:10) and His Lordship (MAR 9:39; 1CO 12:3; 1JO 4:1-3) is not God-ordained.
- B. "By their fruits ye shall know them." MAT 7:15-20
- C. No true prophecy will contradict the written Word of God. ISA 8:20
- D. It must agree with the previously spoken and revealed will of God. 1KI 13
- E. A prophet is recognized as true when the word he has spoken comes to pass. If it doesn't, it was not the word of the Lord. DEU 13:1-5; 18:21-22; JER 28:9
- F. The source of a ministry cannot be determined merely by signs of the miraculous (DEU 13:1-5). Satan can perform lying signs and wonders. EXO 7:11; 8:17-19; 2TH 2:9, 11, 12; REV 13:13, 14
- G. If the person entices people to follow after another God (REV 13:1-5), or speaks of another Savior, another Spirit, or another gospel, he is not sent by God (2CO 11:4).
33. **EXO 7:11** But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.
34. **EXO 8:17** And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. 18 Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast. 19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had said.
35. **DEU 13:1** "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 "and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—and let us serve them,' 3 "you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 "You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. 5 "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, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.
36. **DEU 18:21** "And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?'— 22 "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 of him.
37. **ISA 8:20** To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.
38. **MAT 7:15** "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.
39. **MAR 9:39** But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me.
40. **1CO 12:3** Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
41. **2CO 11:4** For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!
42. **1JO 4:1** 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. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 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.
43. **REV 19:10** And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."
44. **JER 28:9** "As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the Lord has truly sent."
45. **2TH 2:9** The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

46. **REV 13:13** He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.
47. **REV 13:1** Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And **I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.** 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. **The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.** 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. 4 **So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"** 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

Examples of False Doctrines Currently Widespread in the Church*

***The source of reference for ALL Christian doctrine is THE BIBLE. (ISA 8:20, 1TI 5:17, 2TI 3:16, ACT 17:11, etc.) YOU should know the ultimate Biblical basis for EVERY doctrine you hold. Should any of these doctrines seem confusing or uncertain to you, then go for yourself to the Bible to see what it says in this area. Not all doctrines are ESSENTIAL to the Christian faith and salvation, but many can be treacherous to your spiritual health nonetheless. Always try to study the Bible to see what IT says, rather than take your doctrine and look for Bible scriptures that support it. Otherwise, you can be led astray. ALL of us should be willing to 'adjust' our theology as we learn more. NO church or denomination has ALL the answers in every area !!**

1. The Bible, being written by imperfect men, is itself imperfect and contains many errors & inaccuracies.
2. Water Baptism as an infant saves a person, no matter how they live their adult life.
3. Water Baptism is absolutely necessary to salvation. No one can be saved without water baptism.
4. The pre-tribulation rapture will remove all believers from the earth before anything bad happens.
5. There will be no literal seven-year tribulation on the earth. All events in **MAT 24-26** occurred in the past.
6. There will not be a literal, bodily 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth. He remains forever in heaven.
7. Supernatural Healing by faith is not for today. Healing passed away with the first century church.
8. Prophesying is not for today. Prophesying passed away with the first century church.
9. All supernatural Gifts of the Spirit are not for today, as they passed away with the first century church.
10. The offices of Apostle and Prophet passed away with the first century church. None are alive today.
11. Miracles passed away with the first-century church, and cannot be expected in answer to prayer today.
12. There is no such thing as an eternal, literal Hell where there is eternal punishment of the 'lost'.
13. Once saved -- always saved. A truly saved person can never lose their salvation, no matter what they do.
14. Any saved person has all the Holy Spirit they can ever expect. There is no 'Second Work' of the Spirit.
15. Tongues are not for today. Tongues passed away with the first century church.
16. There is no such thing as 'Original Sin' or an Adamic Sin Nature.
17. The Jews are no longer God's 'Chosen People', since most rejected Jesus as their Messiah.
18. God therefore no longer deals with the Jews in Prophecy any more than any other race of people.
19. Christians no longer need to keep the 10 commandments, nor any other part of the Law.
20. Tithing was a practice commanded under the Law, but does not apply to Christians today.
21. God predetermined some to salvation, and others for damnation. Our eternal destiny is pre-ordained.
22. A Christian cannot be truly sanctified or holy in this life, since all Christians sin all the time.
23. No Christian can be demonized from within his or her being, but only harassed from without.
24. Therefore, a deliverance ministry applies only to unbelievers, NOT to believers.
25. All supernatural events or happenings are of God, since the devil has no supernatural power.
26. A Christian can appeal to God in prayer through Mary or other Saints, who carry our prayer for us.

- **ISA 8:20** To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.
- **JER 5:30** "An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land: 31 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 16:19** O Lord, my strength and my fortress, My refuge in the day of affliction, **The Gentiles shall come to you from the ends of the earth and say, "SURELY OUR FATHERS HAVE INHERITED LIES, WORTHLESSNESS AND UNPROFITABLE THINGS."**
- **HOS 4:6** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
- **COL 2:8** Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.