



A Systematic Expository Study of the Word of God

Special Study:

THE DESTINY OF FALSE PROPHETS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS

Matthew 7:19-20

In God's governmental dealings with people, the severity of punishment shows the gravity of the sin committed by man. The sin of a false prophet **who** deceives multitudes into believing a soul-damning lie, **who** strengthens men in rebellion against God, **who** turns people away from the way of salvation into the way of eternal perdition, **who** changes, adulterates and distorts the Word of God, the sacred constitution of God's Kingdom, **who** sins against the clear light of God's revelation, **who** by flagrantly sinning encourages others to sin against God, **who** professes to serve God, being supported by the resources of God's people, yet serves God's arch-enemy, Satan, **who** refuses the pleadings of the Holy Spirit to repent and return to the truth, that preacher's crime is greater than what our tongue can express. What would you think of doctors who, instead of helping people to live, are injecting them with disease-transmitting viruses? What would our society, any society, think of lawyers who collect much money from their clients and yet consistently and deliberately make them victims of cruel injustice? What would our government, any government, think of the teachers who, instead of teaching youths to live properly, deliberately teach them the way of evil and death? What God knows about false prophets which most of us are ignorant of would make shocking and frightening discoveries when they are eventually disclosed on the judgment day.

God is no unrighteous Judge, neither is He a partial Judge. If the man who sins and rejects forgiveness and salvation is judged, will the man who sins and makes many others hardened in sin not be judged? If a thief who steals, all by himself is sentenced and punished, will another thief who does not only steal but trains others to steal be free from punishment? False prophets will appear before God on the final day to answer for the deeds they have done in the flesh.

THE FRIGHTENING DELUSION OF FOLLOWERS OF FALSE PROPHETS

Matthew 13:15; 23:15; Isaiah 30:8-13; Jeremiah 44:15-23; John 3:19-20; Romans 1:22-28; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Galatians 4:15-20; 5:7-12.

"Ye shall know them by their fruits. A corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. Neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." The word fruit is used in Scripture in various ways. Children are referred to as fruits of their parents (Deuteronomy 28:4,11; 30:9; Psalms 127:3; 132:11). Converts and followers are also referred to as the fruit of preachers (Romans 1:13; Jeremiah 2:3; Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:15; James 1:18; Revelation 14:4). The followers of the false prophets are the fruit of their ministries. The effect of their message and ministry will be seen in the lives of their followers. If the generality of their followers are nominal, sinful, carnal, covetous and blind to the truth of salvation and Christian living, it is the result of what they receive from the false teachers. The fruit of the false prophets, that is, their followers, gradually become committed, zealous, blinded, reprobate, fanatical and apostate. The influence of false prophets on their followers can become so strong until they harden their hearts, and permanently close their ears and eyes to the truth. They often come under such strong delusion that they believe a lie and defend falsehood. The Pharisees and their followers (their "**proselytes**") are an example of such strong delusion. Their followers became two-fold more children of hell than themselves. Though Christ did so many miracles to convince them of His divine credentials and authority, they rejected Him and opposed the saving truth He taught. Those followers of the false prophets did not only reject Jesus Christ and His message, they resisted the Holy Ghost (Acts 7:51). They made a deliberate choice not to retain God in their knowledge (Romans 1:28) and harden their hearts to the point of loving error and hating the truth. They turn away from sound doctrine and turn unto fables. In fact, they confess

openly that they hate the word "**doctrine**", which is a precious New Testament word (Matthew 7:28; John 7:16-17; Acts 2:42; Romans 6:17; 1 Corinthians 14:6; 1 Timothy 4:6,13,16; 5:17; 6:1,3; 2 Timothy 4:2-5; Titus 2:1,7; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Titus 1:9). The paths of false prophets and their followers are very slippery; falling is easy but recovery is difficult, almost impossible. "**Avoid them**" (Romans 16:17-18).

THE FINAL DESTINY OF FLATTERED, FALSE PROPHETS

Matthew 7:19-20; Proverbs 29:5-6; Job 32:21-22; Ezekiel 13:3-9; Matthew 3:10; Luke 3:7-9; Matthew 23:15,33; 2 Peter 2:1-6,9,17; Jude 4-7; Revelation 19:20; 20:10; 22:18-19.

This is the teaching of the Word of God from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Christ taught clearly on the final doom and future damnation of deceived and deceptive prophets not because He rejoiced to see them damned but because He desired their salvation, warning them so they would see the future awaiting them if that would lead them to repentance. Like His Father in heaven, He had no pleasure in the death, doom or damnation of the wicked or the false prophet. He said, "**I and my Father are one**" (John 10:30). As God is "**not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance**" so Christ is not willing that any false prophet should perish but that he should repent. He offered them salvation and wept for them because they rejected the Truth (John 8:24; 9:40-41; Luke 19:41-42). Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, taught the truth in love and we cannot teach the truth without love. No true child of God or true servant of God can teach this truth without love for souls and a bleeding heart. Yet, we cannot hold back the truth because of its painful reality. While there is the possibility of repentance and redemption, we must proclaim this truth on housetops. Judgment, indignation, wrath and damnation await unrepentant false prophets. Ministers who lead their members to captivity must go into captivity; those who send others to hell will follow them there. Corrupt trees and corrupt fruits are united by corruption on earth and they will be united in condemnation throughout eternity. There is no repentance or forgiveness beyond the grave. God offers forgiveness and mercy while we are here on earth. Balaam refused to return from the way of perdition and he perished (Numbers 22:22,34; 2 Peter 2:15-17; Revelation 2:14). "**In Jerusalem, a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith**" (Acts 6:7). "**Make the tree good, and his fruit good**" (Matthew 12:33). Our God Who "**is able of these stones to raise children unto Abraham**" can change and transform any minister with his message and members. Be willing and obedient.

THE FUTURE DAMNATION OF FILTHY FRUITLESS PEOPLE

Matthew 7:19-20; John 15:6; Matthew 13:40-42,47-50; Matthew 25:41,46; Mark 9:42-48; James 3:1-6; Hebrews 10:26-31; 12:25-29; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 14:9-11; 20:11-15; 21:8.

Jesus spoke about the future damnation, judgment and suffering of sinners in hell more than any other preacher or prophet in the Bible. And He said, "**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away**" (Matthew 24:35). He also said, "**We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen**" (John 3:11). He said, "**My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent Me**". "**As My Father hath taught Me, I speak these things**" (John 7:16; 8:28). No one who truly believes in Christ and His divinity will doubt the existence of hell. If you truly abide in Christ and His words abide in you, you know that unrepentant sinners who follow false prophets, instead of following Christ will be lost and damned.

If we are thoughtless, shallow and superficial in our conviction of the truth of the final suffering of sinners and captives of false prophets, we shall be lukewarm in the ministry of rescuing the perishing. Believing these words of Christ as we should will make us zealous in "**pulling them** (the deceived sinners) **out of the fire**" (Jude 23). Knowing the truth as it is in Christ, having the mind of Christ, sharing His agony and compassion for the lost, seeing the reality of the future as Christ sees it, setting our heart and affection only on what Christ counts essential and important, we shall count all things dung and useless in comparison with seeking to save the lost. Eternity is endless. Hell is real. Whatever the cost, warn the followers of false prophets and win them to follow Christ.

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