

FALSE PROPHETS, PAST AND PRESENT
II PETER 2:1-3

Introduction:

- A. This is the most unpopular topic in American religion today.
 - 1. Very few people desire to hear a sermon on this topic.
 - 2. To have such an attitude is to be unrealistic.
- B. We had better not disregard this subject.
 - 1. To do so is to disobey the Word of God.
 - 2. To ignore the present state of affairs.

I. THERE WERE FALSE PROPHETS. v1a

- A. pseudo-prophet = a false hypocritical prophet, one falsely professing to come as a messenger and with a message from God.
 - 1. Peter has written of the true prophets.
 - a. 1:19-21.
 - 2. "Holy men of God spoke as they were borne along by the Holy Spirit."
- B. Who were those men? These False prophets?
 - 1. The angels that sinned. There was "war" in heaven
 - 2. The opposers of Noah.
 - 3. The preachers in Sodom and Gomorrah!
 - 4. Balaam, the Son of Bosor. v15.

II. THERE SHALL BE FALSE TEACHERS AMONG YOU. v1

- A. "who privily shall bring in damnable heresies."
 - 1. To bring in by one's side, introduce secretly.
 - 2. False prophets do not announce their intentions
 - 3. Damnable = the losing or loss, destructive fatal, killing, ruinous.

4. heresies = a set of principles, a sect or school,
Originally, the seizure of a city, seems to indicate the plan of
an individual to stealthily begin a movement to seize control of
a church and subject it to his or her principles or way of
thinking.

- B. "even denying the Lord that bought them"
 - 1. deny = disown, to say no, to refuse, to decline.
 - 2. bought = saved them.

- C. "and bring upon themselves swift destruction."
 - 1. swift = taxinos = swift, speedy.
 - 2. destruction = waste, ruin, death by violence,
perdition.

III. THE SUCCESS OF FALSE PROPHETS. V2

- A. "they will gain many adherents"
 - 1. Check the false prophets.
 - 2. This is what Jesus foretold.

- B. "to their pernicious ways"
 - 1. pernicious = lascivious, wanton, destructive.
 - 2. They are led as sheep to slaughter.

- C. "by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken
of."
 - 1. reason = on account of
 - 2. evil spoken of = blasphemed.
 - 3. "and thereby bring discredit on the truth"

- D. Who does the greatest harm to the truth?
 - 1. The counterfeit!
 - 2. The closer the real thing, the more harm.

IV. THE MOTIVE OF THE FALSE PROPHET. V3

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A. "and through covetousness shall they make merchandise of you."

1. covetousness = the will to have more.

a. Larger portion, advantage, superiority plans of fraud and extortion.

2. Merchandise = traveling for business, to deal in, to import, to make gain of, to cheat.

3. "Motivated by by greed, they will exploit you with their counterfeit words."

1. To the false prophets, you are merchandise.

2. A means of gaining, power or advantage.

3. To some you are a vote, you be on my side, let me lead you, for your sake, no, for mine.

B. What do the modern false prophets want?

1. power = political, to gain the ear of successful.

2. power = religious, to control.

3. power = financial = "the love of money"

V. THE JUDGMENT OF THE FALSE PROPHET.

A. "whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not."

1. judgment = punishment.

2. lingereth = be inactive, be still.

3. "whose punishment has been ready for a long time"

a. long time.

b. God is getting ready, He is ready!

B. "and their damnation slumbereth not."

1. damnation = destruction.

2. slumbereth = to nod, to drowse.

3. "and on their trail, destruction is awake."

VI. BRETHREN, BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS!!

