

## 2 Peter, Chapter 2

### VS 1 – 3 False Prophets, False Teachers, Destructive Heresies

#### Old Testament False Prophets

The Bible describes false prophets as

- adulterous (Jeremiah 23:14, But in the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his evil)
- treacherous (Zephaniah 3:4 Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests profane what is holy; they do violence to the law.),
- drunkards (Isaiah 28:7 the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are swallowed by<sup>g</sup> wine, they stagger with strong drink, they reel in vision, they stumble in giving judgment.)
- wicked (Jeremiah 23:11 Both prophet and priest are ungodly; even in my house I have found their evil,)
- liars (Jeremiah 14:14; And the LORD said to me: “The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.)

#### True Prophets

- A true prophet’s words will be fulfilled (Deuteronomy 18:21–22; Jeremiah 28:8–9).
- A true prophet’s teachings are consistent with Scripture (2 Peter 1:20–21; Revelation 22:18–19).
- A true prophet’s teachings will encourage righteous behavior and provide spiritual benefit (Deuteronomy 13:1–4; Jeremiah 23:13–14, 32).
- A true prophet’s life will reflect a divine call (Matthew 7: 15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>You will recognize them by their fruits).
- A true prophet will acknowledge Jesus Christ as divine (1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.)

## **False Doctrines**

False doctrine is that which opposes a fundamental truth or that which is necessary for salvation. The following are some examples of false doctrine:

- **The erasing of hell.** The Bible describes hell as a real place of eternal torment, the destination for every unregenerate soul (Revelation 20:15; 2 Thessalonians 1:8, Matthew 10:28; 25:46)
- **The idea that there are “many paths to God.”** This philosophy has become popular recently under the guise of tolerance. This false doctrine claims that, since God is love, He will accept any religious effort as long as the practitioner is sincere. Such relativism flies in the face of the entire Bible and effectively eliminates any need for the Son of God to take on flesh and be crucified for us and contradicts Jesus’ direct words that He is the only way to God (John 14:6).
- **Any teaching that redefines the person of Jesus Christ.** Doctrine that denies the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, His sinless nature, His actual death, or His physical resurrection is false doctrine. Jesus described false teachers within the church as “wolves in sheep’s clothing” (Matthew 7:15).
- **Teaching that adds human religious works** to Christ’s finished work on the cross as necessary ingredients for salvation. This teaching may pay lip service to salvation by faith alone but insists that a religious ritual (such as water baptism) is salvific. Ephesians 2 tell us are saved by the grace of God, through faith, and nothing we do can add to or take away from it.
- **The teaching that presents grace as a license to sin.** Paul dealt with this thinking in Romans 6.
- **Satan is not real.**
- **The bible was written by man and is flawed and the authoritative Word of God.**
- **Jesus had sin in His life.**

## **Early Church Heresies (False Teachings).**

### Arianism

- The belief that Jesus was created, not divine. Not coeternal with the Father and the Son in the Trinity. Rejected at the Council of Nicaea with the language, “of one being with the Father, begotten not made...”

### Nestorianism

- The belief that Jesus was two people, one human and one divine in contrast to Jesus being both fully God and fully man with both natures present in unity of being.

### Monothelism

- The belief that Jesus had no human will. The church teaches Jesus had a divine and human will that function in obedience to the will of the Father.

### Montanism

- The belief that prophetic revelations were received in the late second century through the Holy Spirit, separate from the Holy Spirit abiding in the church through all believers.

### Apollinarism

- The belief that Jesus had a human body and no human spirit, as opposed to Christ being fully human with body, soul, and Spirit.

### Iconoclasm

- The belief that the veneration of icons was idolatry.

### Docetism

- The belief that Jesus never fully took on human flesh and that his body was an illusion, and the God never became “incarnate” or made man.

### Pelagianism

- Salvation by human works and personal effort

VS 4 – 9

## **Divine Judgment**

- God did not spare the angels – cast into Tartarus (the abyss or deepest part of hell)
- God did not spare the ancient world – Noah and the flood (Genesis 6)
- God did not spare Sodom and Gomorrah.

### **Divine Protection**

- God rescued Noah.
- God rescued Lot.
- God knows how to rescue the godly.

### **VS 10 – 14    The Judgment of the Unrighteous and the Wicked**

- Those who indulge in the flesh.
- Those who despise authority.
- Those who are self willed and revile angelic majesties.
- Those who are as unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct to be captured and killed.
- Those who take pleasure in doing wrong and have no knowledge reviling in broad daylight.
- Those whose eyes are full of adultery.
- Those who never cease from sin.
- Those who entice others to sin.
- Those whose hearts are trained in greed.

### **VS 15 – 16    The Way of Balaam**

- Balaam loved the wages of unrighteousness.
- Balaam did not curse Israel ask Balek, King of Moab wanted.
- Balaam was rebuked by his donkey and his life was spared.
- Balaam taught Moab to introduce idolatry and intermarriage via immorality to Israel.
- God would bring judgment on Israel for their sin.

### **VS 17 – 22**

- Springs without water
- Speaking with arrogance, vanity, and sensuality
- Slaves of corruption
- They knew better but returned to their old ways.