

Truth about Prophets and Miracles 2



Loving Truth or Loving a Lie?

How not to be Deceived!

So far, we have seen that Eve was deceived because she chose to believe something that contradicted the Word of God!



God told her and Adam clearly that they would die if they ate that fruit. Satan disguised himself (He loves to do this to fool people!) and he comes out and tells her that God is a liar and what He said is not true!

How not to be Deceived!

What is an even worse lie that he told her, was that God was selfish and was keeping it from them because it was something wonderful and He wanted it for Himself. This lie declared that God did not want what was best for them!



Eve chose to believe a stranger, think evil of her loving Creator, and doubt His Word!

How not to be Deceived!

So the Word of God is what we need so we will not be deceived today!

Does the Bible really tell us how to spot false prophets?



How not to be Deceived!

Oh yes! The Bible gives us a whole set of rules to use to measure these things! Here we will look briefly at them and then learn more details in our following lessons.

But how do we know the Bible is truly the Word of God? We will learn all about that too—be sure not to miss any of these lessons!

Let's look at some Bible texts:

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12.

Notice: 'They received not the love of the truth'. Why did they not love the Truth? Because they desired something that was 'unrighteous'! That means something that was wrong for them to have!

God seeks to lead us to 'love the Truth'; actually the ability to love the truth is given to us by Him, it is not something that we have to do on our own.

We couldn't do it on our own, because since man fell, it is natural for him to hate the truth.

But if we don't love and accept the truth we can't be saved.

Have you ever had something that you knew was not true, but you really wanted it to be true—so much that you felt angry when someone told you it was false?

Well, that is an example of not loving the truth!

The reason why people don't accept this ability to love truth from God is an interesting one, it says 'but had PLEASURE in unrighteousness'.

I'll put it in simpler terms; they refuse to believe the truth because it's more fun to believe the lies.

Watching, hearing, reading, or believing, untrue things gives them pleasure; they enjoy it.



This is not only referring to doctrines, it refers to all truth; accepting the truth about the sin in our life and what we need to confess and repent of.

It refers to facing the truth that the world with its fascinations is wicked and rapidly heading for destruction.

It refers also to fiction and fantasy in entertainment; it also refers to all those little 'lies of convenience' that we indulge in.



It refers to trusting in the word of psychics, fortunes tellers, healers, and 'prophets' even though we see they do not follow the Word of God, but we want what they offer us whether it is God's will or not!

It refers also to untrue stories and fairy tales we tell to our children.

There are many folk who are really fooled because they do not know the truth; God has mercy on them and tries to lead them to the truth.



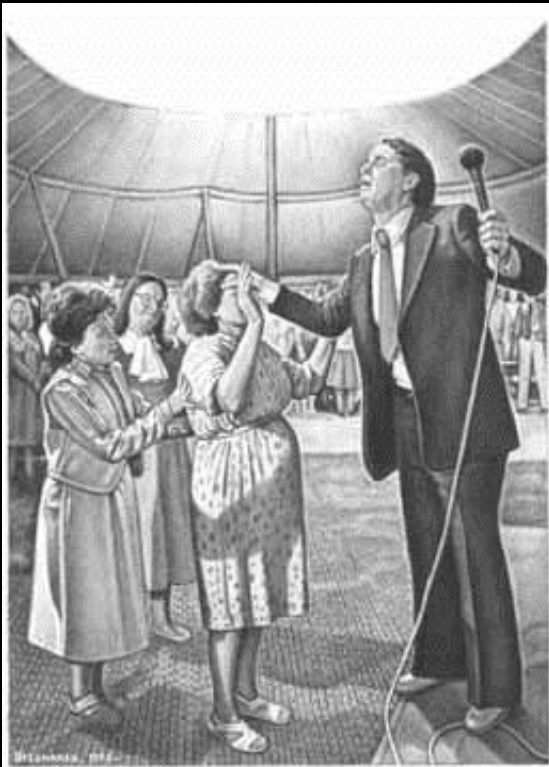
He forgives them when they turn from these false things. But when they know and still refuse, they are classed as loving a lie more than God's Truth.

God deals with 100% truth. He will teach us only 100% truth. We find truth about salvation and all these other things in the pages of the Holy Bible. If we don't want to hear God's truth, He finally has to leave us to our own unhappy destinies.

**Notice this sad verse:
"For without (out of heaven) are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."
Revelation 22:15**

That is what it means when it says 'God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie'. God doesn't deceive them, No, of course not! They insist on being deceived, so God has to withdraw His protection and the liar, Satan sweeps in and they are carried away by the muddy torrent of delusions.

Exposing the Lies



I want to make this point clear, anything out of harmony with the scriptures is not truth. Satan is putting forth the concept that man is immortal in himself. And he tells his followers that he is able to give life and do anything for them that they want. Why does he try so hard to make us believe we are all powerful and immortal?

The TRUTH is that only God, that is God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, have underived life. All other lives in the universe are dependent upon the life of God. If we think that we have life in ourselves, then we are not so worried about God's authority. "He's just bluffing when HE warns us, "The wages of sin is death!" After all, we can't really die." But God only deals in truth, He never bluffs.



Satan is a powerful angel, he has great power to influence our minds and bodies, great hypnotic ability and can do things that to us seem impossible; **but he has no life in himself.**

This is a truth he knows but refuses to accept. He cannot give life to his followers. He cannot even heal when it is a case where real life-giving power is required. He can hype them up with hypnotism and feelings for a while, but he has no power to give life or to re-create; only the Life-giver has this power.





So now we will look at the Bible Rules to know if someone is a real Prophet or not. Remember, even the person claiming to be a prophet may himself be fooled by Satan IF he does not use the Bible to test his so-called 'gift'!

Bible rules for True Prophets:

1. A true prophet does not lie. His predictions will be fulfilled. “The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him.” Jeremiah 28:9

Bible rules for True Prophets:

2. A true prophet prophesies in the name of the Lord, not in his own name. “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:21.

Bible rules for True Prophets:

3. A true prophet does not give his own private interpretation of prophecy.

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.” 2 Peter 1:20.

Bible rules for True Prophets:

4. A true prophet will point out the sins and transgressions of the people of God. “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” Isaiah 58:1.

Bible rules for True Prophets:

**5. A true prophet warns the people of God's coming judgment. "Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof."
Isaiah 24:1.**

These first five tests alone are enough to damage the reputation of most so-called prophets, but with the second group of five, they are truly devastating.

Bible rules for True Prophets:

6. A true prophet edifies (instructs) the church, counsels and advises it in religious matters.

“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. . . .he that prophesieth edifieth the church.” 1 Corinthians 14:3, 4.



7. A true prophet's words will be in absolute harmony with the words of true prophets that have preceded him in the Bible. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20..

Bible rules for True Prophets:

“And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” 1 Corinthians 14:32, 33.

True prophets agree with each other because they all agree with the Bible and their messages come from the same source.

Bible rules for True Prophets:

This test is very important! It is not just by quoting a Bible text or two that a 'prophet' is shown to be from God.

NONE of their messages will contradict the Bible, **ALL** must agree together. The Bible does **NOT** contradict itself, so all true prophets will not contradict the Bible either!

8. A true prophet recognizes the incarnation of Jesus Christ, that He actually came in human flesh not some kind of 'spiritual body'.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.” 1

John 4:1-3

“For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but **he took on him the seed of Abraham**. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”
Hebrews 2:16, 17.

There are many claims today that Jesus was born of a sinless mother, or that He just pretended to be human, or that He could not have sinned—these things are all denied by the Bible! He could have sinned, but praise God! He never did!



9. A true Prophet can be recognized by the results of his work. Does their work and teaching help people to be more like Jesus and obey His Word?

“Ye shall know them by their fruits. (results of their work.) Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**”
Matthew 7:16-20.





10. A true prophet acts in accordance with the will of God. “When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, Thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

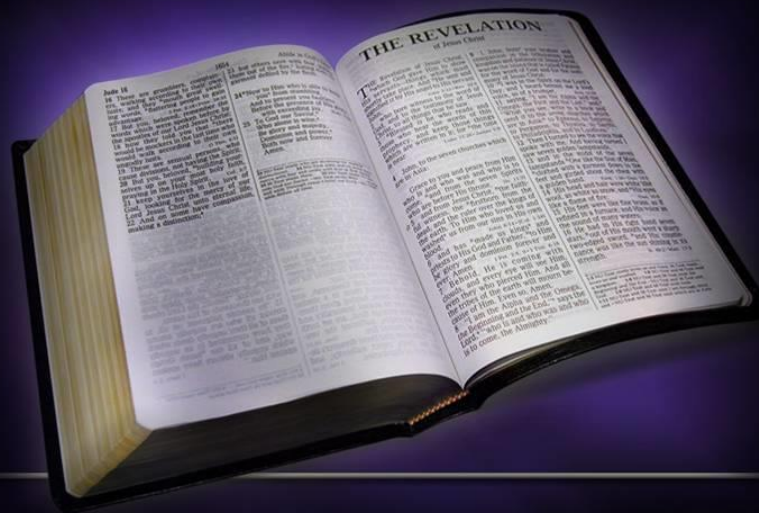
There shall not be found among you any one,
. . .that useth divination [fortune-teller], or an
observer of times [astrologer], or an
enchanter [magician], or a witch, Or a
charmer, [hypnotist] or a consulter with
familiar spirits [medium with a spirit or a
'guide'], or a wizard [clairvoyant or psychic],
or a necromancer [medium who consults the
dead].

For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.”

Deuteronomy 18:9-12.

Based on these texts, not everyone who prophesies is a prophet of God. The actions of a true prophet will not contradict basic Bible doctrines.

So what if their predictions **do** come true, or they **do** some miracle, and yet they are **not** in harmony with the **Bible** and the prophets that have gone before them?



“If there arise among you a **prophet, or a dreamer of dreams**, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; **Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams:** for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.” Deuteronomy 13:1-5.

What are the tests of a true prophet?

Three tests will settle the issue in each and every case:

- (1) Physical condition of the prophet when in vision;
Physical signs we will look at.
- (2) Personal life of the prophet; dedicated to Jesus and in obedience to and in harmony with Biblical principles.
- (3) The messages given by the prophet are in full agreement with Biblical standards, promises, doctrines and laws.

Six physical signs found in Daniel 10:8-19:

(1) The prophet loses his strength and falls to the ground in a deep sleep.

(2) Despite the sleep, he hears a voice speaking to him.

(3) In the vision, and at times in physical action, the prophet arises to his hands and knees and then to his feet when the being touches him.

(4) At first he is dumb (can't speak); but when his lips are touched in his vision, he is enabled to speak.

(5) Throughout the vision he is without breath of any kind. His breathing totally ceases and yet he can speak! (This is impossible to counterfeit—only God can cause a person to live and speak without breathing!)

(6) Strength is given him during the vision.

(7) During the vision his eyes are open. “He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:”

Numbers 24:4: