

God Condemns False Prophets and Prophetesses

Ezekiel 13

Group ¹	C	V	Description
False Prophets Condemned	13	1-7	False prophets following their own spirit
		8-16	God makes sure the false prophets are not remembered
		17-19	False prophetesses denounced by God
		20-23	False prophetesses visions will cease

Reflections

Sometimes it is difficult to know who to believe and who not to believe, especially when it comes to people who claim to speak for God. In this chapter, Ezekiel is told to declare a message to the false prophets and prophetesses who claim to be speaking for God.

A couple of key verses are found in verse 6-7.

Ezekiel 13:6-7 NASB “They see falsehood and lying divination who are saying, ‘The LORD declares,’ when the LORD has not sent them; yet they hope for the fulfillment of *their* word. **7** Did you not see a false vision and speak a lying divination when you said, ‘The LORD declares,’ but it is not I who have spoken?”

This is not a new concern for God and His people. There are a number of different references to people who claimed to speak for God but were not true prophets throughout the history of the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Even during the time of Christ and His apostles there were some who claimed to speak for God but were not sent by God. In fact, John shared how to identify a false prophet from a true prophet.

1 John 4:1-6 NASB Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from 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 from God; **3** and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. **4** You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. **5** They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. **6** We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Why is God so vengeful against false prophets and prophetesses? In Ezekiel, we find the answers in the following verses.

Ezekiel 13:8-9 NASB Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, “Because you have spoken falsehood and seen a lie, therefore behold, I am against you,” declares the Lord GOD. **9** “So My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will have no place in the council of My people, nor will they be written down in the register of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel, that you may know that I am the Lord GOD.”

Ezekiel 13:20-23 NASB Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am against your *magic* bands by which you hunt lives there as birds and I will tear them from your arms;

¹ (NASB) “Group” column from the headings in the NASB text.

God Condemns False Prophets and Prophetesses

and I will let them go, even those lives whom you hunt as birds. 21 I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people from your hands, and they will no longer be in your hands to be hunted; and you will know that I am the LORD. 22 Because you disheartened the righteous with falsehood when I did not cause him grief, but have encouraged the wicked not to turn from his wicked way *and* preserve his life, 23 therefore, you women will no longer see false visions or practice divination, and I will deliver My people out of your hand. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.”

It had to do with their motives for saying they had a message from God, usually seeking monetary gain or some form of control over people. So make sure that the prophets you listen to are truly speaking with God’s blessing and proclaiming God’s message.

There and Then: Here and Now

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this part of our study: *my LOG vs others SPECK. Here are some possible responses I’ve identified from the text that might apply to anyone.*

S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?

•

P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?

•

E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?

•

C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?

•

K - How has this passage increased my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?

•

Additional Resources

GotQuestions.org – articles on prophets: true and false

- What is a prophet in the Bible? [article](#)
- What was a prophet in the Old Testament? [article](#)
- How can I recognize a false teacher / false prophet? [article](#)
- Are there prophets in the church today? [article](#)

Key Words: Old Testament, Prophecy, Ezekiel, False Prophets



This work by James Swanson is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](#). Originally published at [studythebook.org](#) on August 5, 2016.

Bibliography

(NASB) *New American Standard Bible*. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.

* *Navigator Bible Study Handbook* (with additions) & Matthew 7:1-5.