

Beware of False Prophets

2 Peter 2

Group ¹	C	V	Description
The Rise of False Prophets	2	1-3	Beware of false prophets
		4-10a	God's sure judgment: angels; people in the time of Noah; Sodom & Gomorrah; the present unrighteous - v4-8, 10a God's sure rescue: from temptation for the godly - v. 9
		10b-16	The fate of the ungodly compared to Baalam (Numbers 22-24)
		17-22	The false teachers ungodly ways

Reflections

This chapter can't be read separated from the first chapter in which Peter has clearly stated that the testimony and prophecies of the apostles can be trusted because they were eyewitnesses to the things they are professing. So when he writes in the beginning of the second chapter that the reader needs to be aware of false prophets that will arise, which are not like himself and his fellow apostles.

The apostles are speaking out of pure motives wanting solely to proclaim the gospel, probably remembering the words of Jesus when he sent them out to preach.

Matthew 10:5-10 NASB These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; 6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. **Freely you received, freely give.** 9 "Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, 10 or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support. ...

The above quote is only a portion but clearly Jesus was not teaching his disciples to act in the ways that Peter was not describing: lying, cheating people out of their money, lusting after food and sexual pleasures, etc.

Peter points to God's ability to save those who are faithful to Him, especially during times when false prophets are active, as the motivation his readers will need when troubled times come. Remember Jesus gives living water which continually refreshes. Unlike the dry springs of water that are the false prophets.

John 4:10-14 NASB Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? 12 "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

John 7:37-38 NASB Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living

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

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water."

How do we know if someone is a false prophet? Look for what motivates them. Is it lust, greed, food, deception, etc.? Or is it the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to all and any who would hear and respond?

Key Words: New Testament, Letters, 2 Peter, False Prophets, Salvation



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Bibliography

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