3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
03 – Thursday – October 15, 2026

FALSE PROPHETS

No matter what God does, Satan has his counterfeits. It's the same with prophets. Israel faced true and false prophets. The key was to know the difference.

Read Jeremiah 14:1-15. What was happening here, and how did the Lord regard those who spoke falsely as "prophets" in His name?

THE JEREMIAH DILEMMA

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Jeremiah 14:1–15 — False Prophets in a Time of Crisis

1. Judah Was Experiencing Severe Judgment

"Judah mourns, and her gates languish… and the cry of Jerusalem has gone up."—Jeremiah 14:2, NKJV

A devastating drought affected the people, animals, fields, and water supplies. This was not merely an environmental crisis; it reflected Judah's persistent rebellion and departure from God. The nation was experiencing the consequences of its sin.

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2. The People Wanted Relief Without Repentance

"O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do it for Your name's sake."—Jeremiah 14:7, NKJV

The people acknowledged their sin, but their confession did not produce genuine reformation. They wanted God to remove the drought without turning away from the practices that had separated them from Him.

"Thus they have loved to wander; they have not restrained their feet."—Jeremiah 14:10, NKJV

God desires more than words of confession; He wants a heart that turns away from sin.

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3. The False Prophets Promised Peace When Judgment Was Coming

"You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place."—Jeremiah 14:13, NKJV

While Jeremiah faithfully warned Judah of the consequences of rebellion, the false prophets delivered a more comfortable message. They promised peace, security, and prosperity without repentance. Their words reassured the people but contradicted God's revelation.

False prophets often tell people what they want to hear rather than what they need to hear.

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4. God Had Not Sent Them and Condemned Their False Messages

"The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them."—Jeremiah 14:14, NKJV

God completely rejected their claim to divine authority. Their messages came from "a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart." Because they spoke falsely in God's name, they would experience the very sword and famine they denied were coming.

"By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed!"—Jeremiah 14:15, NKJV

Central lesson:

- Speaking in God's name is a sacred responsibility.
- A true prophet communicates God's message faithfully—even when it is unpopular—while
- A false prophet offers comforting deception without divine authorization.

FALSE PROPHETS ARE NOT OBVIOUS: Ways to discern a false prophet:

1. **EXAMINE THEIR SOURCE**: **Isaiah 8:16 (NKJV) "Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples."**
2. **EXAMINE THEIR ADHERENTS TO THE COMMANDMENTS**: **1 John 2:3-4 (NKJV) "(3) Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. (4) He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."**
3. **DON'T TAKE THEIR APPEARANE FOR AUTHENTICITY: 2 Corinthians 11:13-14 (NKJV) "(13) For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."**
4. **DON'T ACCEPT MIRACLES AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR TRUTH: Matthew 24:24 (NKJV) "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."**

Whether or not you are a prophet, it's always easy to follow the popular thing. Considering how corrupt culture can be, why is this never a good idea?