

God's Word vs The Prophets

There are so many false prophets that have risen up over the years and that are presently active in the world today. To make matters more confusing, these "prophets" come in the name of Jesus and they also appear to live generous, kind and wholesome lifestyles. Yet, many of them are preaching different gospels that conflict with each other! How are we to know if someone is a false prophet?

Thankfully, God loves us very much and He wants to protect us. He doesn't want us to be deceived. He wants us to be in the truth. Because of this, God has given us a simple test that we can do to see if someone is a false prophet. This test is found in God's Word.

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 "But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death. You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?" If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed."

All people make mistakes, even prophets make mistakes...but according to God's Word, a true prophet of God will never give a false prophecy. If a person makes even just one false prophecy by saying, "This event will happen," and then it does not happen, then according to God's Word, that person is a false prophet. We can test this against prophets of the Bible, like Daniel, Isaiah, Micah, and David.

God's Word vs Biblical Prophets

*Micah 5:2 "But you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."*

- Around 400 BC, Micah prophesied that the Messiah was to be born in the city of Bethlehem. In Matthew chapter 2, we read this fulfillment that Jesus truly was born in Bethlehem.

*Isaiah 16:5 "In love a throne will be established; in faithfulness a man will sit on it-- one from the **house of David.**"*

- Around 700 BC, Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would come from the bloodline of David. In Luke 18, we read about the blind man and others calling Jesus the Son of David. We also read in the gospel genealogies that Joseph is a descendant of the bloodline of David.

*Psalms 22:16 "A pack of villains encircles me; they **pierce my hands and my feet.**"*

- Around 1,000 BC David prophesied the nails that would be driven through the hands and the feet of the Messiah. This is centuries before crucifixions were invented. Yet in John 20:25, we

see the disciple Thomas saying that he will not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead unless he puts his finger where the nails were in Jesus' hands.

*Daniel 9:26 "The **Messiah will be put to death** and will have nothing. Then the people of the prince who is to **come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.**"*

- Around 500 BC, Daniel prophesied that the Messiah would be killed and then following that, the temple/sanctuary would be destroyed. This gives us a timeframe saying that the Messiah would be killed BEFORE the temple was destroyed. And that is exactly what happened. Jesus died around 30 AD, then the temple was destroyed in 70 AD.

All 4 of these men made prophecies. All of their prophecies came true and none of them ever made a single false prophecy. They have passed God's test as a true prophet. I have heard many members of the LDS Church say, "The truth really comes down to whether or not Joseph Smith was a true prophet. If he is, the Church is true. If he isn't, the Church is false." Let's take God's test and use it to determine whether or not Joseph Smith was a true or a false prophet.

God's Word vs Joseph Smith

#1: Joseph Smith - 1835: *"The coming of the Lord, which was nigh – even fifty-six years should wind up the scene" (History of the Church, Vol. 2 p. 182).*

- Smith prophesied that Jesus would return with 56 years which from this point in time would have been 1891, but we know that this did not happen.

#2: D&C 84:3-5 *"Which city shall be built, beginning at **the temple lot**, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord, in the western boundaries of the **State of Missouri**, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jun., and others with whom the Lord was well pleased. Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the **city New Jerusalem shall be built** by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which **temple shall be reared in this generation. For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord**, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house.*

- Smith prophesied that God told him that the temple would be built in Missouri and verse 5 clarifies that it would happen BEFORE this generation passes away. That generation passed away a while ago and there has never been a temple built on the lot in Missouri that Smith prophesied about. Even after Smith died, the following LDS prophets and apostles who were within that generation sincerely believed in the prophecy of JS and that the temple of New Jerusalem would be built before they died. But again, no temple was ever built.

#3: D&C 114:1 *"Verily thus saith the Lord: It is wisdom in my servant **David W. Patten**, that he settle up all his business as soon as he possibly can, and make a disposition of his merchandise, that he may **perform a mission unto me next spring**, in company with others, **even twelve including himself**, to testify of my name and bear glad tidings unto all the world."*

– In the spring of 1838, Smith prophesied that God told him that David Patten would serve his mission the following spring, 1839. However, David Patten was shot and killed in October, 1838. The other 11 apparently still managed to serve this mission but Patten never served the prophesied mission due to his death.

#4: According to LDS leaders, Joseph Smith said that God showed him that there are people living on the moon: *“The inhabitants of the moon are more of a uniform size than the inhabitants of the earth, being six feet in height. They dress very much like the Quaker style and are quite general in style or fashion of dress. They live to be very old; coming generally near a thousand years. This is the description of them as given by **Joseph [Smith] the Seer, and he could see whatever he asked the Father in the name of Jesus to see.**”* (Journal of Oliver B. Huntington, Vol 2, p 166)

- Astronauts have been to the moon and we now know that there is no one living on the moon.
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My friend, I say all of these things to you out of love. I do not want you to be misguided and God wants to protect you from being deceived as well. Please pray and critically think about these things:

#1 – If Joseph Smith lived in the times of Moses, what would have happened to him?

- He would have been killed because he made false prophecies. According to God’s Word, one false prophecy makes someone a false prophet.

#2 – Is it wise for us to put our trust in a church that is built on men who have made false prophecies?

According to God’s Word, if anyone gives a false prophecy, we are to put that person to death. For us today, the application is that we should cut off or put to death the teachings of anyone who has ever made ever made a false prophecy.

This is God’s way of protecting us from being deceived.

*We need to put our trust in Jesus and His Word (John 17:17 & Psalm 119:105). I encourage you to read the gospel of Matthew and the book of Romans to grow in your faith and knowledge of the Savior. When it comes to eternal life and living in the presence of God, **Christ alone is enough!***