

# FALSE PROPHETS OF THE LAST DAYS

BIBLE TEXT : II Peter 2:1-22.

LESSON 455 Junior Course

**MEMORY VERSE: "Mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Romans 16:17).**

## BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

### 2 Peter 2:1-22

<sup>1</sup> But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

<sup>2</sup> And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

<sup>3</sup> And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

<sup>4</sup> For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

<sup>5</sup> And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

<sup>6</sup> And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

<sup>7</sup> And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

<sup>8</sup> (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

<sup>9</sup> The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

<sup>10</sup> But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

## BIBLE REFERENCES:

### NOTES:

#### **God's Holy Word**

God cannot lie. They who love Him know that every word in the Bible is true, that everything written there was written as the Holy Spirit of God Himself instructed the authors to write. God's true people believe the doctrines, or teachings, of the Bible. They not only believe them, they practice them, they live by them.

#### **False Prophets**

But there are many people in the world who say they believe the Bible, yet they teach and preach something that is contrary to God's Word. So we are warned not to listen to false prophets lest we should believe a lie and begin to spread a false doctrine ourselves.

The first false prophet we read of in the Bible was the serpent who came to Eve in the Garden of Eden. God had told Adam and Eve that if they ate of the fruit of the tree that was in the midst of the Garden, they would die. That would be a very terrible punishment. It meant more than that their bodies would die. They died spiritually, breaking their fellowship with God. God would no longer come down to walk and talk with them. The serpent said, "Ye shall not surely die." They believed the serpent rather than God, and were driven out of the Garden. Ever afterward there have been false preachers and teachers who claim to be sent of God, but they do not tell the truth. If anyone preaches or teaches anything that is contrary to, or opposite to, that which is written in the Bible, he is false.

#### **Heresy**

The false prophet may have been saved at one time; he may have preached the truth of God's Word. But if he comes in a sly way, maybe under cover, to change any doctrine or teaching of the Bible, he is a false prophet. Keep away from him, have no company with him. He is bringing a "damnable heresy," and if you receive it, it will lead you to eternal damnation.

#### **Covetous**

The false prophet denies the Lord who bought him, the Lord who shed His Blood for him. He denies the Lord by changing His Word. He denies Him by committing sin and yet claiming to be a prophet of the Lord. The worldly people see false prophets and think that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is full of hypocrites, and speak evil of it.

These false prophets are covetous; some want money; some want the praises of man; some want people to look up to them as great preachers. With smooth, flattering words they "make merchandise" of, or buy and sell the very souls of men. They bring upon themselves and their followers swift destruction -- the judgment of God, which is hanging over them ready to be executed at any time.

#### **Sure Judgment**

To show the sureness of God's judgment upon all sinners, even though they may claim to be righteous, the Apostle Peter recounts that when the angels who were in Heaven sinned, God

<sup>11</sup> Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

<sup>13</sup> And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, *as* they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots *they are* and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

<sup>14</sup> Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

<sup>15</sup> Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam *the son of Bosor*, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

<sup>16</sup> But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

<sup>17</sup> These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

<sup>18</sup> For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much wantonness*, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

<sup>19</sup> While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

<sup>20</sup> For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

<sup>21</sup> For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.

When in the ancient world God saw that the wickedness of man was great, and that every thought of his heart was only evil continually, He sent the Flood upon the world of the ungodly.

When the people of Sodom and Gomorrah became so very wicked that God could not find even ten righteous people among them, He sent fire from Heaven and they were turned into ashes.

As you read these words you noticed that God delivered Noah and Lot because they were righteous. God has promised to deliver the godly, but His judgment will come upon every sinner who does not repent of his sins and ask for mercy, even though he may pretend to be a preacher of the Gospel. Those who cling to the Bible as their guide and keep true to the doctrines written there, God will deliver. He will deliver them from the influence of false prophets, and He will deliver them from the great judgments to be poured upon the ungodly.

### True Doctrine

The Bible is our textbook. As we read from it daily and pray that God will write its lessons on our hearts, we learn its doctrines, some of which are listed here:

**REPENTANCE:** Every person must repent of, or turn from sin, in order to be saved (**Matthew 3:2** <sup>2</sup> And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.).

**RESTITUTION:** He must make restitution; he must take back or pay for anything he may have stolen; he must ask forgiveness for any lie he may have told (**Leviticus 6:1-5** <sup>1</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the LORD, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour; <sup>3</sup> Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein: <sup>4</sup> Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found, <sup>5</sup> Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, *and* give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering.).

**SALVATION:** When he is saved, he is saved from committing sin. He is saved through faith in Jesus' Blood (**Romans 3:25** <sup>25</sup> Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;), *and he does not sin any more* (**1 John 3:8-9** <sup>8</sup> He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.). *If he sins after he has been saved, he is no longer saved; he is backslidden and on his way to hell, unless he repents.*

**SANCTIFICATION:** God says, "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16). After a person is saved, he is to be sanctified by a definite work of grace by the Blood of Jesus. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled" (Hebrews 12:14, 15).

**THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST:** When the 120 disciples received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire on

<sup>22</sup> But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

the Day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter said, "The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2: 39).

**DIVINE HEALING:** God is our physician, our healer, and we are to trust Him when we are sick. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up" (James 5:14, 15).

**COMING OF JESUS:** Jesus is coming back to earth again. First He is coming in the sky to catch away from this earth those who love Him and are doing all they understand the Bible tells them to do (**1 Thessalonians 4:17** <sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.), while the ungodly will be left on earth to suffer during the Great Tribulation—God's judgments (**Matthew 24:21** <sup>21</sup> For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.). Then Jesus will come back to earth with His saints to rule and reign a thousand years (**Revelation 20:4** <sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.).

**THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT:** This judgment awaits all who refuse to be saved (**Revelation 20:11-12** <sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.). Then this earth will pass away and there will be new heavens and a new earth (**2 Peter 3:13** <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.).

**ETERNAL HEAVEN AND ETERNAL HELL:** There is an eternal Heaven (**Revelation 22:14** <sup>14</sup> Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.), and an eternal hell (**Luke 16:22-26** <sup>22</sup> And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; <sup>23</sup> And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup> And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. <sup>26</sup> And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. **Revelation 14:11** <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.) that burns with "fire that never shall be quenched" (**Mark 9:43** <sup>43</sup> And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into

hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:).

**NO DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE:** Marriage is binding for life. There may be no divorce and marriage to another while the first companion lives (**Romans 7:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of *her* husband. <sup>3</sup> So then if, while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.)

**WATER BAPTISM BY IMMERSION:** Water baptism is the privilege and duty of every one who is saved. To be baptised is to be immersed by going down into the water and coming up out of the water, as Jesus was baptised by John (**Matthew 3:16** <sup>16</sup> And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:). And each one is to be baptised "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (**Matthew 28:19** <sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:), as Jesus commanded His disciples.

**THE LORD'S SUPPER:** Jesus Himself gave this ordinance to His disciples (**Matthew 26:26-28** <sup>26</sup> And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. <sup>27</sup> And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; <sup>28</sup> For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.), and as we partake of the bread and grape juice, emblems of Jesus' broken body and shed Blood, we do it in remembrance of His death on the cross for us (**1 Corinthians 11:24** <sup>24</sup> And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.)

**THE WASHING OF THE DISCIPLES' FEET:** Jesus taught this ordinance by His own example, saying, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14,15).

### Lying Prophets

If anyone comes to you claiming He is a Christian, or even a preacher of the Gospel, and tries to influence you to believe that any one of the doctrines or teachings of the Bible is not necessary or should be changed, he is a false prophet. Do not listen to him, stay away from him.

Those who listen to him, he allures, or tries to draw aside with promises of liberty, but all the while he himself is bound with the devil. He may have been saved at one time; but if so, he has backslid and it has happened unto him according to the true proverb, "The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

### QUESTIONS

1. How do they start their "damnable heresies"?
2. What is a heresy?
3. How do the false prophets deny the Lord? .
4. How do we know that God's judgments will surely come upon any and all sinners?
5. What kind of people are delivered out of temptation?
6. Give the name of the false prophet mentioned in our lesson.
7. What kind of bondage are false prophets?
8. What proverb shows the dreadful end of backsliders?