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# "False Prophets"

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and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. (2 Thessalonians 2:10 NASB)

For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, (2 Thessalonians 2:11 NASB)

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Let us get right into God's Word on and about false prophets.

The basic sign of a false prophet is his messages and prophecy will go against the Word of God. There are two things that tell if a person is a false prophet or not. ONE is, does his word contradict the Scriptures and TWO is, does his predictions come true or not? It has to pass both tests!

## ~Harold Camping~

Earlier this year, Harold Camping predicted that the rapture was going to occur. In other words, he claimed Judgment Day would be May 21, 2011. "By Camping's understanding, the Bible was dictated by God and every word and number carries a special significance. He noticed that particular numbers appeared in the Bible at the same time particular themes are discussed. For example, the Number 5, Camping concluded, equals "Atonement". Ten is "Completeness: Seventeen means "Heaven".



With the above as background information; Mr. Camping explained how he reached his conclusion for May 21, 2011. This is the short version.

"Christ hung on the cross April 01, 33 AD....now go to April 01, 2011 and that is 1,978 years'. Camping then multiplied 1,978 by 365.2422 days- the number of days in each solar year, not to be confused with a calendar year. Next, Camping noted that April 1 to May 21 encompasses 51 days. Add 51 to the sum of the previous multiplication total and it equals 722,500. Camping realized that  $(5 \times 10 \times 17) \times (5 \times 10 \times 17) = 722,500$ . Or, to put into words: (Atonement x Completeness x Heaven) squared." Kind of makes my head a little swimmy.

Camping is an 89, now 90 year old engineer by trade and not a Bible scholar. (Not that you have to be a Bible scholar to understand the Bible, it's



probably better if you are not a learned, schooled Bible scholar.) Apparently Mr. Camping is not aware of the Bible

verse in Matthew as well as many others spoken by Jesus Himself.

*"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. (Matthew 24:36 NASB)*

How do we know that Harold Camping or any other so-called prophet is a false prophet, look in your Bible, in Deuteronomy, chapter 18: verses 21-22.

*"You may say in your heart, 'How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' (Deuteronomy 18:21 NASB)*

*"When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. (Deuteronomy 18:22 NASB)*

In other words, if a man claims to be a prophet, but his prophecy does not come true, that man is not speaking for God. He is speaking on his own or for Satan. We are not to pay attention to this so-called prophet. This would mean that his or her predictions may come true, but are NOT in line with the Scriptures?

Harold Camping is no stranger to false predictions; he previously predicted the end of the world or Judgment Day would be in 1994. And now that May 21, 2011 has passed he has another Judgment Day or end of the world prediction that it will be October 21, 2011. Let us wait and see, but don't hold your breath. Camping also now says that Judgment Day did come May 21, 2011. It came spiritually, not physically. (So we were not able to see Jesus and the judgment.)



According to an article by Albert Mohler "Mr. Camping is not merely wrong on this rather embarrassing matter. More importantly, he has called for Christians to leave their churches, claiming to have found in the Bible the announcement that the age of the church has passed. Since Mr. Camping said, the church no longer exist, he

has taught that, Christians should leave its so-called churches and merely associate for fellowship. Baptism and the Lord's Supper, commanded by the Lord to be practiced until He comes, are no more, Camping has taught."

### ~Future Judgment Day~

There are many end-time events that will have to occur before the real Judgment Day; the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I don't know much, but the only thing I can guarantee you is that each day, we are one day closer to that glorious return of Jesus Christ and the real judgment day.

### ~The Millerites~

Mr. Camping has not been the only person with false predictions, especially setting dates about the return of Jesus Christ. It brings back to memory William



Miller and the Millerites in what became known as "The Big Disappointment." William Miller preached for years that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Jesus Christ would be October 22, 1844. Miller calculated his date of Jesus' return from Daniel 8:14, making adjustment to the 2300 evenings and mornings.

Many Millerites sold all their possessions and waited for that day. Upon waking up October 23, 1844, many were disappointed that Jesus didn't come back on that "The Great Disappointment" date and the hope of many failed. I understand that there were 1,000s upon 1,000s that had accepted and expected this false doctrine of the Millerites and William Miller.

On October 23, 1844, saw newspapers proclaiming that Miller and his followers were wrong about the second coming of Jesus Christ. Many followers of Miller were very troubled. They faced embarrassment of selling all they had and devoting themselves to their belief that Jesus was coming back and when He didn't return, Miller's followers were left without answers. You see, many Millerites had sold their homes, quit their jobs, stopped farming their fields, and most began to fast and pray as the date neared. Let us quote one Millerite about his great disappointment.

"I waited all Tuesday (October 22) and dear Jesus did not come, - I waited all the forenoon of Wednesday, and was well in body as I ever was, but after 12 o'clock I began to feel faint, and before dark I needed someone to help me up to my chamber, as my natural strength was leaving me very fast, and I lay prostrate for 2 days without any pain - sick with disappointment."



There were ministries and several denominations that came out of this Millerites movement following of the "Great Disappointment of 1844." For one, I have read was James and Ellen White who were instrumental in foundering the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

### **~Church of God (Seventh Day)~**

From a more local standpoint and from the book "The Story of the Church of God (Seventh Day)" by Robert Coulter has this to say about Gilbert Cranmer, founder of the church in Michigan in 1858, which later became the Church of God (Seventh Day).

"It was in 1843, that Cranmer studied and accepted the theory of William Miller on the second advent of Jesus Christ. On October 22, 1844, he experienced the "great disappointment" with thousands of others. But unlike many who gave up their faith, Cranmer reviewed the matter of the advent and remained convinced that Jesus' second coming was imminent and sure. He continued to preach the second advent of Jesus Christ the remainder of his life."

As a footnote to Gilbert Cranmer in Robert Coulter's book, page 11.



"Cranmer recalls in his biography that the seventh-day Sabbath was first brought to his attention in an Advent publication called 'The Midnight Cry,' in 1843. He did not begin to observe the Sabbath, however, until he once again was confronted with the teaching of Joseph Bates, a prominent Sabbath keeping Adventist."

I will have to give Gilbert Cranmer credit; in that he kept searching for the truth his entire life and he continued with an open mind and an open creed, and open to the nudging of God's Holy Spirit. Otherwise the Church of God (Seventh Day) may not have existed as it has evolved.

### ~False Prophets~

I just thought you may be interested in a little history of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in case you didn't know. Now, back to the false prophets.

I'm sure that these so-called false prophets were sincere, but, "you can be sincere and yet be wrong." I believe, like hopefully all of you, that Jesus is physically coming back, but we don't know when. We are just to be ready and waiting!



*They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11 NASB)*

And Jesus even said Himself in Mark 13;

*"But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. (Mark 13:32 NASB)*

And then in Acts, Jesus said;

*He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; (Acts 1:7 NASB)*

### ~Old Testament Prophets~

The Old Testament will give us some light on the issue of false prophets. We can go to the book of Deuteronomy, part of the Torah. We will look at chapter 13, verses 1-5; Reading from the New American Standard Bible. (NASB)

*If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, (Deuteronomy 13:1 NASB)*

*and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,'*

(Deuteronomy 13:2 NASB)

*you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deuteronomy 13:3 NASB)*

*"You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.*

(Deuteronomy 13:4 NASB)

*"But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you. (Deuteronomy 13:5 NASB)*



False prophets and false teachers think they are above God! If they didn't, they would be reading and quoting the Bible instead of their own agenda and their human reasoning?

Deuteronomy 18:20 speaks of these prophets that does not speak words that God does not commands him to speak.

*'But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'* (Deuteronomy 18:20 NASB)

Aren't you glad you didn't live in Old Testament time, certain sins were punishable by sudden death?

**~1 Kings 13~**

Speaking of death for false prophets or prophets that do not speak God's word or do not do exactly what God has commanded them to do. Let us look at the story in 1 Kings, chapter 13. It may leave more questions unanswered as opposed to answered.

Before we read the verses, let me set the stage for what is happening. Under King Rehoboam, the people cried out under the yoke of taxes and work the king

imposed upon them. They asked Rehoboam to lighten their load. When Rehoboam failed to listen to their pleas, Jeroboam led the northern tribes in rebellion against



the house of David. Once he had established his own kingdom Jeroboam's next step was to make it secure and unified.

Jeroboam knew that as long as his people traveled to Jerusalem and the temple for worship he could not sleep easy. Religion could so easily cause the people to return to the house of David. Therefore, he made two golden calves and said to the people, (1 Kings 12:28) *"It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."* He decided to place the two calves in Bethel and Dan as alternative or rival worship centers to Jerusalem. In establishing Bethel and Dan as worship centers, Jeroboam took great pains to imitate what God had established in Jerusalem: he had the same festivals observed; he had sacrifices offered at the same times; and, he kept the same hours of prayer. (1 Kings 12:32). Jeroboam wanted the people to be comfortable with worshiping at Dan and Bethel.

Now we will pickup the story in Chapter 13 of 1 Kings.

*Now behold, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense.*(1 Kings 13:1 NASB)



*He cried against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD, 'Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.'"* (1 Kings 13:2 NASB)

*Then he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken, 'Behold, the altar shall be split apart and the ashes which are on it shall be poured out.'"* (1 Kings 13:3 NASB)

*Now when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar in Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Seize him."*

*But his hand which he stretched out against him dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself. (1 Kings 13:4 NASB)*

*The altar also was split apart and the ashes were poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.*

*(1 Kings 13:5 NASB)*

*The king said to the man of God, "Please entreat the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and it became as it was before.*

*(1 Kings 13:6 NASB)*



*Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward." (1 Kings 13:7 NASB)*

*But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water in this place.*

*(1 Kings 13:8 NASB)*

*"For so it was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall eat no bread, nor drink water, nor return by the way which you came.'" (1 Kings 13:9 NASB)*

*So he went another way and did not return by the way which he came to Bethel.*

*(1 Kings 13:10 NASB)*



*Now an old prophet was living in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the deeds which the man of God had done that day in Bethel; the words which he had spoken to the king, these also they related to their father*

*.(1 Kings 13:11 NASB)*

*Their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" Now his sons had seen the way which the man of God who came from Judah had gone. (1 Kings 13:12 NASB)*

*Then he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him and he rode away on It. (1 Kings 13:13 NASB)*

*So he went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak; and he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I am."*

*(1 Kings 13:14 NASB)*

*Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread." (1 Kings 13:15 NASB)*

*He said, "I cannot return with you, nor go with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. (1 Kings 13:16 NASB)*

*"For a command came to me by the word of the LORD, 'You shall eat no bread, nor drink water there; do not return by going the way which you came. '"*

*(1 Kings 13:17 NASB)*



*He said to him, "I also am a prophet like you, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" But he lied to him. (1 Kings 13:18 NASB)*

*So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house and drank water.*

*(1 Kings 13:19 NASB)*

*Now it came about, as they were sitting down at the table, that the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back; (1 Kings 13:20 NASB)*

*and he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have disobeyed the command of the LORD, and have not observed the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you, (1 Kings 13:21 NASB)*

*but have returned and eaten bread and drunk water in the place of which He said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water"; your body shall not come to the grave of your fathers.'" (1 Kings 13:22 NASB)*

*It came about after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, for the prophet whom he had brought back. (1 Kings 13:23 NASB)*

*Now when he had gone, a lion met him on the way and killed him, and his body was thrown on the road, with the donkey standing beside it; the lion also was standing beside the body. (1 Kings 13:24 NASB)*

*And behold, men passed by and saw the body thrown on the road, and the lion standing beside the body; so they came and told it in the city where the old prophet lived. (1 Kings 13:25 NASB)*

*Now when the prophet who brought him back from the way heard it, he said, "It is*



*the man of God, who disobeyed the command of the LORD; therefore the LORD has given him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke to him." (1 Kings 13:26 NASB)*

*Then he spoke to his sons, saying, "Saddle the donkey for me." And they saddled it.*

*(1 Kings 13:27 NASB)*



*He went and found his body thrown on the road with the donkey and the lion standing beside the body; the lion had not eaten the body nor torn the donkey. (1 Kings 13:28 NASB)*

*So the prophet took up the body of the man of God and laid it on the donkey and brought it back, and he came to the city of the old prophet to mourn and to bury him.*

*(1 Kings 13:29 NASB)*

*He laid his body in his own grave, and they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!" (1 Kings 13:30 NASB)*

*After he had buried him, he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I die, bury me in the grave in which the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones.*

*(1 Kings 13:31 NASB)*

*"For the thing shall surely come to pass which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria." (1 Kings 13:32 NASB)*

*After this event Jeroboam did not return from his evil way, but again he made priests of the high places from among all the people; any who would, he ordained, to be priests of the high places. (1 Kings 13:33 NASB)*

*This event became sin to the house of Jeroboam, even to blot it out and destroy it from off the face of the earth. (1 Kings 13:34 NASB)*

## ~Points on 1 Kings 13~



As the story developed we could say it was the story of one king, two prophets and a hungry lion. But, it's much more than that. It's the story of a sinful king that turned the territory of Bethel into idol worship by placing two calves there for the people to worship, instead of them going to Jerusalem. It was so sinful that God had to respond. He sent a man of God to Jeroboam to let him know of his sins and in my opinion give him a chance to repent and serve God.

### What does this short story in 1 Kings 13 show?

- \* It shows us that you can be a no-name prophet of God and still be used.
- \* It shows us that when instructed by God to do something, that you do it exactly the way He told you to do it; to the last little detail.
- \* It shows us we are to listen to only God and not listen to others even if they call themselves a prophet of God. God always has the higher authority!
- \* It shows us that God is in control of all things, including flesh eating lions that did not eat the donkey or the prophet.
- \* It shows us that we should separate ourselves from evil.
- \* It shows us that we should repent before it is too late.

## ~False Prophets in Sheep's Clothing~



Now-a-days I'm not afraid of the false prophets that set times and dates, because I know they are not of God, but Satan. It's the wolves in sheep's clothing that I am alarmed about and fear the most. Because Jesus said; *"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matthew 7:15 NASB)*

It's the little things that will catch us unaware. Today, people are mixing up all religions and throwing them into one. Anything goes, a little of this and a little of the other. For Jesus said, "I am the way and the only way."

*Jesus \*said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (John 14:6 NASB)*

## ~False Prophets, Teachers, Writers, etc.~

At this point I am not only referring to False Prophets or False Preachers, but false teachers, false Christian book writers and others that speak and do not proclaim - *sola scriptura* - "The Bible and the Bible only" and I would like to add "the complete Bible, the Old and New Testaments."

These books that I pick up to read with that catchy covers or the articles I read, or hear some teachers that give me a little bit of God and the rest mumbo-  
 jumbo. They give you just enough God that would make us believe what they are proclaiming, if we didn't check it out, that it was the whole truth. You mix a little untruth in with the truth and it turns into an untruth. Truth is 100% truth. They turn the words around and mix God with Hinduism, Islamism, mysticism, paganism and all those other "isms." They are so well-spoken and well-written that we are suckled into their reasoning and self-interpretation of their personal theology, not God's theology. As Jesus said, the elect may be fooled.

*"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. (Matthew 24:24 NASB)*

## ~Helpful Bible Verses~

Let me leave you with some Bible verses from God's book that will help keep us  
 on the right path; the path of following Jesus Christ and none other. If you think about it even from a logical standpoint, if you have to, Jesus Christ and Christianity is the only religion that has held-up since the beginning of time. It's never changed. It has been the same all these years. And we have a living Savior. All other religions, their saviors are in their graves. JESUS IS ALIVE!

*But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;*

*(1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB)*

*See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. (Colossians 2:8 NASB)*

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, (2 Timothy 4:3 NASB)*

*who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. (Titus 1:11 NASB)*

*But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.*

*(2 Peter 2:1 NASB)*

*To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. (Isaiah 8:20 NASB)*

*Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. (James 3:1 NASB)*

**~Finish With Words of Caution~**

When Christians remove themselves from the flock and go into isolation, they are open season for wolves and young lions. You often see individuals getting deceived, but rarely an entire church.

Today's church cannot remain faithful if it tolerates false teachers and leaves their teachings uncorrected and unchallenged.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to put obedience and holiness before anything else.



*I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; From God, internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take full credit for these writings since there are many. I did not in some cases keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. Credits will sometimes be in the above writing. My comments, writings and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this writing. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things.*

*This article as well as many other messages can be found at [www.deweyfox.com](http://www.deweyfox.com) and click on "Christianity."*

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Dewey E. (Obey) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

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