

The Test of a Prophet
Deuteronomy 18:15-22

Who are God's prophets ...

I. God's Prophets

A. Recognize Them

1. Words
2. Deeds

B. Listen to Them

1. Truth
2. Candor

II. False Prophets

A. Recognize Them

1. Words
2. Deeds

B. Do Not Listen to Them

1. Lies
2. Deceit

III. Opposing Voices

A. From the Pit

B. From Heaven

... and why does it matter.

Children, Listen ...

1. Do true prophets of God come up with their own stuff to tell people?
2. Why do you think the Bible is so full of warnings against false prophets and teachers?
3. Will God deal with false prophets and teachers kindly?
4. Jesus says false prophets are wolves in sheep's clothing. What does that mean?
5. What has God given us to help us check the words of preachers and teachers today are true?

Wackos, Wolves & the Word

Even though many fall into their cultic traps most rational people can detect a wacko who calls himself a prophet. False religions claim their prophets as well, but the biblically discerning mind can detect their lies readily. But there are some who not so easily discovered. While it is the fodder for many cartoons the imagery of a wolf in sheep's clothing becomes a serious matter when it comes to prophesy. Jesus warns us that it is that type of so called prophet that we must be watching out for. In both testaments we find false prophets right within the camp of God's covenant people claiming to have messages from God when they simply did not. But they are clever and deceptive in the way they present themselves. The emphasis in our series on the prophets will be on the prophets who were legitimately commissioned by God to speak for Him. But, because there is nothing new under the sun when it comes to corruption, we like the ancient people of God and the contemporaries of Christ must be extremely discerning when it comes to messengers who claim to be from God. Only a close scrutiny of their words held up against the Word of God will provide a true test of their authenticity. Simple rule of thumb: if they prove true, listen to them ... if not, don't listen to them!