

Against All the gods of Egypt (of the World) 8 & 9

“The Visible and Invisible War” Parts 1 & 2

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“And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 9 When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. 10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. 13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.” Exodus 7:8-13

We return this morning to our series “Against all the gods of Egypt.” this will be our 8th message in our series on the 10 Plagues. We spoke 6 sobering messages on the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart and then finally last week opened up chapter 7. We shall consider verses 8 - 13 this morning and I have 6 points to share with you:

- I. **The Commission of the Truth:**
- II. **The Confirmation of the Truth:**
- III. **The Counterfeit of the Truth:**
- IV. **The Crowing of the Truth:**
- V. **The Condemnation of the Truth:**
- VI. **The Conquering of the Truth:**

The First thing we shall look at this morning is:

I. The Commission of the Truth: In verse 8: *“And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying.”* Here we have the command and commission to both Moses and Aaron. God has already prepared and authorized Moses and his spokesman and or prophet Aaron to go to Pharaoh. They have both been charged and commission by God to take this message to Pharaoh to let His people go and worship Him in the wilderness, but as we have seen already Pharaoh’s heart has been hardened and will not let the people go. Now, God knew that Pharaoh was going to require a sign and or miracle. The first time they went to see Pharaoh in chapter 5, they was not sign, no demonstration and no credentialing of their commission. The Lord, because He is omniscience, that is He knows all things, knew that Pharaoh was going to ask for a sign. Like most people even in our day who are always looking and asking for signs.

Let me just say quickly in passing that there was a time when God would manifest Himself

by qualifying or credentialing the person by miracles and signs, that is, He would commission and sent with sign and wonder in order to authenticate that it was of God. The reason for this was because the word of God was not complete, but now the word of God is complete from Genesis to Revelation we have 66 books. Interesting that the number of man is 6 as he was created on 6th day. Thus, we have 66 books to confirm and certify to man that God has spoken. He now speaks to man through His word and not through signs. The book of Hebrews clearly establishes this in Hebrews 1:1 & 2, "*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.*" God spake in time past, but now God speaks to us in our day through His word and by His Son. Jesus Christ is the Word and the word was made flesh and this is where many people stumble. John 1:14 says, "*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*" Therefore, in real simple terms, do not ask for signs, but BELIEVE the WORD of GOD! This could happen if you ask for signs so that God will prove Himself to you, turn quickly to Mark 8:10-13, "*And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha. 11 And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him. 12 **And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign?** verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation. 13 **And he left them,** and entering into the ship again departed to the other side.*" Asking for a sign is tempting God. Now you need to also understand that Jesus did performed many signs to confirm and authenticate His ministry that He was the Son of God, remember again, He did this because the Word of God, the Bible was not complete. Notice what is said about those Jews would not believe His WORD! John 12:37-41, "*But though he had done so many miracles before them, **yet they believed not on him:** 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? 39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 **He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart;** that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.*" Now this is what I meant from the text in 1 Peter 2:8 a couple weeks ago, "*And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: **whereunto also they were appointed.***"

Now, Christ had warned them to believe Him on the basis of His word in John 10:37 & 38, "*If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. 38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.*"

Then of course we have doubting Thomas who if you recalled said he would not believe except he saw with his own eyes, "*The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, **Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.***" But then, we also have those blessed words spoken in John 20:30 & 31, "*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 **But these are written, that ye might***

believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” Yes, the Bible is written so that you might BELIEVE that JESUS is the CHRIST the SON of God and that through believing you might have eternal LIFE! Roman 10:17 says, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* Faith comes by hearing, not just any hearing, but the hearing of the Word of God. In 1 John 5:9-13, *“If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. 10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: **he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.** 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”*

There is much to say on this subject, but the Word of God is clear, it is not so much in the seeing of a miracle or sign, but in the HEARING of the WORD OF GOD. Remember this is the second time Pharaoh has been approached. The first time Pharaoh mocks God and then this second time, he asks Moses and Aaron to authenticate and verify their presence before him. Remember these are two 80 year old, old men, who come into the presence of the most powerful king of that day. They come into his royal court yard. Can you imagine his captains, advisers and leaders saying among themselves, can you believe these Hebrews whom they hated and distained, can you believe then have come before Pharaoh and request an audience with him. Then the first words out of Pharaoh’s mouth as though he is saying, I about have had enough of this disturbance from the Hebrews, therefore, *“...Shew a miracle for you ...”* In other words, if you claim to have a God to whom you must go and worship, then back it up with a God like miracle, give proof for your demands! Give me confirmation your God is a God!

What we need to understand in this battle, or if you wish, this ROYAL BATTLE, that it was not between, Moses and Aaron against Pharaoh and his hosts. It was not Israel against Egypt, what we have before us this morning my dear ones is a BATTLE BETWEEN the LIVING and TRUE GOD AND SATAN! I love this quote by James Boice, *“This battle pitted Jehovah, the true God, who moved Moses and Israel against all the false gods of the Egyptian pantheon, back by a host of fallen angels who had turned from God as a part of Lucifer’s original rebellion.”* In other words what we have here in this clash and fight is the conflict and battle of the invisible war that continues to rage between Heaven and Hell. Of course we see this in Eph.6 where we are told to put on the armor of God, why? Eph.6:11-13, *“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”* This is how we must this battle here in Exodus 7-12, it is a battle between Heaven and Hell. The message to Pharaoh was simple, let my people go and when Pharaoh refused, it was then time for God to glorify Himself by bringing full judgment not only on Pharaoh, but against ALL THE

gods of Egypt, Ex.12:12, “For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and **against all the gods of Egypt** I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.” This is where I got the title for our series, “Against all the gods of Egypt,” which includes in our day, against all the gods of this world! Numbers 33:4 says, “For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: **upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments.**” We know that this is the beginning of the end for Pharaoh and Egypt as God would judge them and their gods in the form of 10 plagues as God would set forth His supernatural sovereign POWER to demonstrate that He and HE ALONE is the LIVING and TRUE GOD and that Pharaoh, Egypt and even Satan himself was no MATCH for JEHOVAH/YAWVEH!

Thus, Pharaoh ask for the credentials of their commission from God. He asks for proof and the proof was readily shown as Aaron cast down his rod or staff and it immediately became a serpent, hitting them in the heart of Egypt’s and Pharaoh’s main god, the snake god and do not think by any means that this was just a guess or a fluke not it was by SOVEREIGN DESIGN! This brings us to our second point:

II. The Confirmation of the Truth: “When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. 10 And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded...” (9-10A) This was in keeping with God’s instruction that Moses would be a god to Pharaoh and that Aaron would be his prophet. So when Pharaoh demanded a sign, a miracle and this is exactly what the brothers did, give a miracle to Pharaoh, notice the words of verse 9 & 10, “When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent. 10 **And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded:** and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.”

Whether Aaron knew what was going to happen or not, Moses knew and I can almost hear him chuckle. The LORD GOD ALMIGHTY had powerfully equipped them for the task at hand. Moses perhaps now realized in his heart the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Cor.3:5, “Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; **but our sufficiency is of God.**” This was their confirmation, that is; their sufficiency was of God. Moses had for a long time agonized and wrestle with his heart over his personal inadequacies, but not any longer, it been confirmed and now without a shadow of doubt, he knew he went in the POWER OF HIS GOD! Thus we see The Confirmation of The TRUTH. Moses knew it, Aaron knew and now Pharaoh knew it, that is, they were commission and confirmed by their GOD! The serpent or snake would be a direct assault upon Pharaoh’s sovereignty, because the serpent was a royal symbol of Pharaoh’s authority and he was hit right between the eyes. It would be like someone coming into the Oval office and in front of the President taking a bald eagle and wringing off its neck, it would be a direct attack on America’s sovereignty. Moses and Aaron coming to Pharaoh and throwing down the serpent was an attack on

Egypt's believe system, as the bald eagle would to be our way of American Freedom! (Concluded here 9/21/14) I want to make some quick observations about 2 things: The Staff or Rod and the Serpent. There are some who question whose rod it was, was it Moses' rod or Aaron's rod? Turn quickly to Exodus 4 where we have the first mentioned in the Bible about a rod, let's read verses 1-5, 17. Next time the word rod is mentioned is in our immediate text in Exodus 7:9 & 10 which seems to imply that it is Aaron's rod. It could be that Moses had given Aaron his rod or it can mean the Aaron had his own rod, remember Moses was a shepherd and it was a shepherd's staff, but if Aaron had his own rod no doubt certainly that God had the power to perform with Aaron's rod the same miracle. The issue is not in the rod, the issue here is the POWER given to Moses and Aaron, because it's all about the POWER of God!

The staff or rod is like the gospel, it is an instrument or means in the hands of man, but when the Spirit of God is applied to it, it is the power of God, this is why Paul said what he did in Romans 1:16, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."* Like the gospel, it is called the gospel of God, the gospel of Christ, the gospel of the uncircumcision and the gospel of the circumcision, the Apostle Paul called it my gospel, but it was ONE GOSPEL, the GOSPEL of our SALVATION! To me it does not make a difference as to whose ROD it was, because the POWER behind it was of God. At times it is called Moses' Rod and then it is called Aaron's Rod as a matter of fact in Hebrews 9 remember the 3 things in Ark of the Covenant? Hebrews 9:4, *"Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant."* Again, it shows that God uses means like in our text, the Rod or Staff to accomplish His purposes.

The second observation is the serpent or snake. Again the commentaries argue as to what kind of snake it was. The difference and or issue lies in the Hebrew words that are used for serpent, for example when used in Exodus 4:2 & 3 it is the Hebrew word, '**Nakhash**' which means a serpent and when used in Exodus 7 when Aaron threw down his rod it is the Hebrew word '**Tannin**' which basically means a large reptile which has caused many scholars to argue the point that it was a crocodile. One of the reasons is also because the Egyptians worshipped the crocodile god Sobek who was deemed the Ruler of the Nile. Now, I understand that the word '**Tannin**' can refer to crocodiles for example it is used by Ezekiel 29:3 where it says, *"Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great **dragon** that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself."* The Hebrew word '**Tannin**' is defined as a dragon, serpent, sea monster, dinosaur and large venomous snake. Deut.32:31-33 it says, *"For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges. 32 For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter: 33 Their wine is the poison of **dragons**, and the cruel venom of asps."* Interesting is that the Hebrew word '**Nakhash**' used in Exodus 4 reappears in Exodus 7:15, *"Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning;*

*lo, he goeth out unto the water; and thou shalt stand by the river's brink against he come; and the rod which was turned to a **serpent** shalt thou take in thine hand."* Which makes me think that it must have been a very large snake like the cobra, perhaps the King Cobra which is the largest poisonous snake. Had to be large enough to devour all the other serpents. We can interject also the great serpent and great dragon Satan is under God's control. As one has said so truly, quote, "*The important fact here is not zoological but theological.*" Please understand also that the serpent and not the crocodile was the symbol of Pharaoh's authority and therefore as we already mentioned it was a direct attack against Pharaoh's supreme royalty. Now, no doubt that Pharaoh understood that this challenge came because he asked for a miracle and they went right to the source of his power, the serpent!

Now, of all the signs that God could have used against Pharaoh, He in great wisdom chose to turn the rod of Aaron into a serpent. Remember God is waging war not only against Pharaoh and Egypt but also against Satan. There is no doubt that the Egyptians were fascinated by snakes and snake charmers. The Egyptians were so fascinated with snakes because they were so afraid of snakes and many of them carried some type of amulet to protect them against the serpent god called Apophis who personalized evil. They were so enmeshed and involved with various spells and incantations to help ward off snakebites.

This is the reason Pharaoh wore the snake as a symbol of royal authority, because they were so afraid of snakes. His ceremonial headdress was crested with a fierce female cobra snake, this is another reason I personally believe Aaron's rod turned into a cobra snake. It's like the famous death-mask of Tutankhamen, King Tut. The reasoning behind the headdress crested with the fierce female cobra of Pharaoh was to terrorize his enemies in like manner as the cobra strikes fear into its prey. Thus, Pharaoh would symbolize all the power and magic with which the cobra god bestowed upon him by the wearing of his cobra headdress. He says, show me a sign and God hits him between the eyes, at the core of their wicked belief system. Aaron throws down his rod and it becomes I believe a large cobra, God takes the symbol of the king's majesty and makes it crawl on the ground in the dust where it belongs! Reminds me of another serpent who crawled on the ground in the dust when sent out of the garden, Genesis 3:14, "*And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.*"

Again, Old Testament prophets performed signs and wonders to confirm their ministry that they spoke in God's stead. Therefore, in this particular challenge Moses and Aaron claimed to speak for the Living and True God and as ambassadors they were divinely commissioned by God to tell Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" They no doubt authenticated their commission from God, that is: The Commission of the Truth is seen in that they were sent and The Confirmation of the Truth is seen in the Rod! This leads us to our third point:

III. The Counterfeit of the Truth. We see this in verses 10 – 12A, “*And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents...*”

Well, when Pharaoh was challenged and saw the emblem of his sovereignty slithering across the floor, he calls for his magicians and sorcerers which was a common thing in those day, because the idea was the god with the most magic wins. No doubt that the sorcerers and magicians put on a magic show. Aaron’s display of power was very impressive, but the priests of Pharaoh were able to duplicate this miracle.

Now, this duplication is nothing new by Satan and he continues in our day to duplicate the things of God and in particular the gospel. There is another gospel which is not the true gospel which has ensnared and has deceived many people as the deception of the magician’s serpents deceived Pharaoh. As we know that Aaron’s ROD SWALLOWED all the serpent of these charlatans in like manner the TRUE and HOLY GOSPEL of Christ swallows up any and all false gospels of Satan and his emissaries.

The books of Galatians and 2 Corinthians clearly teach that there is another gospel, which is a false gospel, because there is only one true gospel, which again is the gospel of Christ. Gal.1:6-9, “*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*” Then we also have the text in 2 Cor.11:2-4, “*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*”

Oh my dear ones this morning there is only one true gospel, there is only one message of the good news of God to perishing sinners. Every other gospel that is not solely squared in Christ is but a sham, a fake, a pretense and a false gospel invented by Satan himself that will damn many souls to hell, this is why we preach the true gospel of necessity as Paul would say in 1 Corinthians 9:16, I say also, “*...for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*” God saves sinners by the preaching of the true gospel, but the word of God teaches that there is another Jesus and that there is another spirit and that there is another gospel. This is something that most people don’t understand, that Satan has a counterfeit Jesus, a counterfeit spirit and a counterfeit gospel which are very deceptive but very alluring to the flesh. Satan is a master of deception and so sad that so

many are deceived into believing a false gospel that is not the true gospel of Christ. As Satan used the counterfeit of the magicians to duplicate the miracle of Aaron in like manner he counterfeits the gospel. In 2 Cor.11: Paul continues exposing the awful deceptions of Satan in verses 13-15, *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”*

You must understand my dear ones that every false gospel makes salvation contingent upon the worth, work and will of man. You must understand that it matters not to Satan regardless what a sinner hears, whether the false gospel a sinner believes is liberal or conservative, papist or protestant, pagan or perverted, cultish or confusing as long as sinners follow them. If the gospel you hear makes salvation to be in anyway contingent and or determined upon you and your works, mark it down you have been dupe! You see the only true gospel and message of salvation is by the unconditional grace of a sovereign God who purchased salvation for sinners by the sin-atonement blood of Christ. If your gospel has not the blood of Christ as the only means of salvation, it will damn and drag you to hell. If this is not your gospel, then your gospel is but mere religion and religion is but idolatry which is in bed with the great whore of Revelation which makes sinners drunk with the wine of her fornication and unless you come out of her and repent and believe the True Gospel of Christ you will perish in your sins.

The Bible is very clear in saying that we are saved by grace through faith and not of yourselves nor of works, Eph.2:8 & 9, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

When the true gospel is preached in the power of the Holy Ghost it can always be identified by some very important things: It describes man in their true character, you see the true gospel always identifies man as fallen, depraved and helpless and a spiritually dead sinner condemned by the Law of God. This true gospel always also represents God as being all-together HOLY and Righteous which is His true character who is sovereign, gracious and merciful. Any gospel that lowers and lessens the Holy character of God, mark it down it is a false gospel. The true gospel is always God-centered whereas the false gospel is always man-centered. Just like the Joel Osteen gospel that is a false gospel enmeshed in a self-esteem positive confession psycho-babel. Any gospel that portrays God as somewhat weak and frustrated is a false gospel. The true gospel is always also centered on Christ and His gracious work on the cross cemented in His death, burial and resurrection! The true gospel always proclaims salvation as a gracious work of God alone. This true gospel is a declaration of salvation by the purpose and work of the Trinity, God the Father chose a people unto Himself and God the Son purchased and died to redeem that same people and God the Holy Spirit quickens and seals that same people in the grace of holy salvation, by the Omnipotent power of God! The true gospel

declares salvation to be entirely the work the Sovereign Operation of the Triune God upon sinners. The true gospel promises a salvation that can never be lost or take away, this is why it is called ETERNAL LIFE and not TEMPORARY LIFE! Even our Lord Jesus Christ spoke on the subject of false prophets which propagate a false gospel. Matthew 7:15, *“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”* What a description of false prophets who come so meek with nice enticing words clothed in sheep clothing that is; using Biblical phraseology, but are inwardly ravening wolves. The word ravenous speaks of being destructive and greedy regarding those who have an excessive gratification for self-satisfaction, like a literal wolf whose hunger is violent as they prey on weaker animals with no regards for anyone but themselves. These false prophets have an utter selfishness for greed and materialism, living and preying on excessiveness.

This warning of Christ was not spoken about vile outwardly wicked man of the gutter, nor about wild and strange sects and cults. No, these words are addressed to respected religious leaders and those who follow them. These give their followers a false peace and a false assurance. They are saturated in mere religion that have made lies their refuge. Isaiah 28:15 says, *“Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves.”* Sad but true but many and perhaps the vast majority of people have for their refuge not Jehovah God, but have for a refuge, a refuge of lies because their religion is a false religion that is based upon a false gospel which leads to a false peace which was propagated to them by a false prophet. Christ says that these false prophets come in sheep clothing appearing to be very nice and concern for your soul. You see they don't come to you with a sign that says, hey beware of me, I'm a false prophet or say hey be careful because I'm preaching another Jesus, not they come disguise as one of God's own preacher and prophet. They seem so sincere, so likeable and sometimes zealous, but this is what makes them so dangerous, because they are really ravenous wolves disguised in sheep's clothing. Listen to the fearful words of our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:11, *“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”* And in verse 24 *“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”*

We live in a day of religious darkness embedded in deceit and delusion and sadder still is that most of professing Christendom cannot even discern error from truth, this is why it is wise to take heed to this message because one of my duties is to warn you against false prophets and teachers and there are many in our day. So sad that so many ignore the Lord's WARNING: BEWARE OF PROPHETS! So many man and women enter the wide gate of destruction by listening to men who do not preach the truth and who do not preach the true gospel, but preach a false gospel saturated in error but enough truth to deceive the masses. Many of these false prophets preach half a truth and they do it with cunning

craftiness and deceit as they turn the ignorant person away from the simplicity that is in Christ by perverting the gospel while pretending to be doing God's service, oh my dear ones listen very carefully to the words of Christ: Let these words stand out like a neon sign: BEWARE of FALSE PROPHETS! Again, Christ in Matthew 7:15 warns us that these false prophets shall array themselves in sheep clothing, but in reality are ravenous wolves and that you are able to know that they are false prophets by their fruits. Those who do not take heed of Christ's words in Matthew 7:15 will be those exposed on judgment day in verses 21-23 of Matthew 7, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*"

May God by the power of His Holy Spirit arrest your very soul if you are outside Christ this morning, may He awaken your soul and cause you not to only hear and but to obey the TRUE and HOLY GOSPEL OF CHRIST!

Do you anything of this gospel, better yet, do you know anything of the God of this GOSPEL? Have you ever ask anyone to explain or define the gospel for you? If you have you know that you'll get all kinds of answers. I'm always amazed at the different answers I get, but what about you this morning, do you know the Savior of the True Gospel? Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ or do you just know about Him? If you do not own Christ as your Savior this morning; oh to God that you would bow the knee and confess with the tongue that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father. Come to Christ this morning; I implore you, come in repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, so that you can say, this is the gospel of my salvation!

In 1 Cor.15:1-4 we have the essence of the gospel, "*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures*"

In verses 51-57 of the same chapter we have these blessed words: "*Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory.** 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Please understand that the same POWER that cause Aaron's rod to become a serpent and swallowed all the other serpents is the same POWER that has swallowed death for

us! What a joy and hope for all the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY. We have victory over death and that victory is in JESUS CHRIST! This is the blessing and promise of the gospel of Christ as Christ clearly declared in John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* Let’s pray: