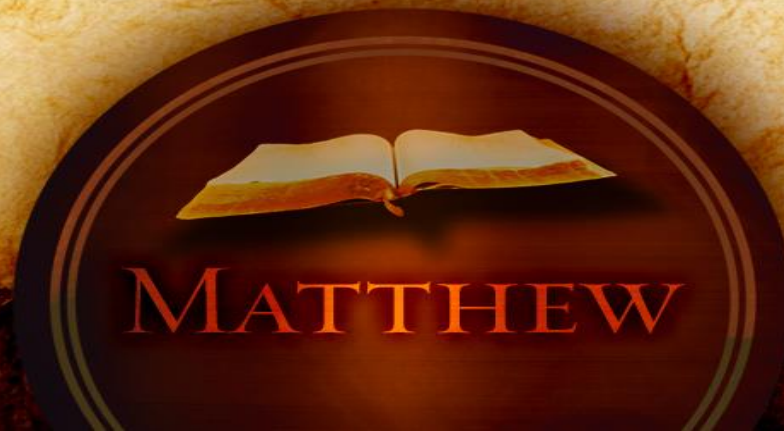




Matthew 7:15-20

Beware of False Prophets

Part 1





Promises to him who overcomes:

Rev. 2:7 “To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.”

Rev. 2:11 “He who overcomes will never be hurt by the second death.”

Rev. 2:17 “To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.”



Promises to him who overcomes:

Rev. 2:26 ““And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”



Matthew 7:15-20

“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. “You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? “Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “So then, you will know them by their fruits.



Matthew 7:15

15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.



Jeremiah 14:14

“Then Yahweh said to me, ‘The prophets are prophesying lies in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a vision of lies, divination, futility, and the deception of their own hearts.’”



Matthew 7:15

15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

- They disguise themselves.
- They camouflage themselves.



Matthew 7:15

15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.



2 Peter 2:1

“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.”



Jude 4

“For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”



1 John 4:1

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.



Acts 17:11

“...for they received the word with great eagerness,
examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these
things were so.



Matthew 7:15

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False Shepherds

- Cause dissention and stumbling (Rom. 16:17-18)
- Secretly introduce destructive heresies (2 Pt. 2:1)
- They lie about what God has said (Jer. 5:30-31)
- They deceive (Mat 24:11)
- And they are deceitful (2 Cor. 11:13-15)
- Revel [take pleasure in] in deception (2 Pt 2:12-22)
- They entice by sensual lusts of the flesh. (2 Pt 2:18)
- Take advantage of you with false words (2 Pt. 2:3)
- Eyes full of adultery and unceasing sin. (2 Pt. 2:14)
- Tear down peoples faith (2 Tim 2:18)
- Promote divisiveness, bitterness, ungodliness in the church (1 Tim 6:4-5; 2 Tim. 2:23)
- Greedy for gain (2 Pt. 2:15)
- They disguise themselves as messengers of Christ (2 Cor. 11:13-15)
- Always learning and never able to come to the full knowledge of the truth. (2 Tim. 3:6)



Who do they target?

- God's people and the church (2 Cor. 11:13; 2 Pet. 2:1).
- The Unsuspecting (Rom. 16:17-18)
- The Unstable (2 Peter 2:14)
- Weak women weighted down with sins (Tim 3:6)



Where do they come from?

- From within the church (2 Pt. 2:1-3)
 - ✓ They creep in “unnoticed.” (Jude 4)
 - ✓ They are “Hidden reefs.” (Jude 12)



Acts 20:26-31



Matthew 7:15

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3 Preliminary ways to guard against false shepherds.

1. Keep your antennae up. (Beware!)
2. Watch your walk.
3. Know the Word.



Matthew 7:15

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