



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- II Peter 2:1-11
- Jeremiah 23
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-16

MALIGNING THE TRUTH

- Heresy
- Evidence
- Judgment

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“But **false prophets** also arose among the people, as **false teachers** will also be among you, who will secretly bring in **destructive heresies**, denying even the Master who bought them, bringing on themselves swift destruction.” 2 Peter 2:1 WEBUS

“Beloved, **don’t believe every spirit, but test the spirits**, whether they are of God, because **many false prophets** have gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1 WEBUS

“We are of God. He who knows God listens to us. He who is not of God doesn’t listen to us. **By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.**” 1 John 4:6 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION: Maligning the Truth

Truth has fallen in the streets. Those were the words echoed by Isaiah, prophesying also about the present time in which we live. Unfortunately, today, the greatest enemy of the truth is not at work

outside the camp. Truth, instead, faces its heaviest assault within the hallowed walls of God's house, and we are God's house, the church of the living God. This enemy arises in the form of false teachers and false prophets, who will each appear for a time as one of us. And this should come as no surprise; we were warned to be aware of shepherds who are actually vicious wolves that will enter in among us, and not spare the flock, and about false prophets, who come in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.

Pastors who are building their own kingdom and prophets who are speaking with lying tongues have become all too commonplace. It's almost as if those who hold fast to the truth are the strangers and heretics. How far we have fallen! Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness. It's time for God's people to speak up and to identify the Spirit of truth and the spirit of lies. "For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. And if it begins first with us, what will happen to those who don't obey the Good News of God?"

HERESY

1. False Prophets, False Teachers, & Destructive Heresies!

A. False Doctrine and its Perpetrators

- (1) "But **false prophets** also arose among the people, as **false teachers** will also be among you, who will **secretly bring**

in destructive heresies, denying even the Master who bought them, bringing on themselves swift destruction.” 2 Peter 2:1 WEBUS

(a) **False** Prophets; **False** Teachers; **False** Doctrines

1. Incorrect, untrue, wrong, erroneous, fallacious, faulty, flawed, distorted, inaccurate, inexact, imprecise, invalid, unfounded, fictitious, concocted, fabricated, invented, made up, trumped up, unreal, counterfeit, forged, fraudulent, spurious, misleading, deceptive.

(b) The importance of good doctrine...

1. “As I urged you when I was going into Macedonia, stay at Ephesus that you might **command certain men not to teach a different doctrine**, and not to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than God’s stewardship, which is in faith. But the goal of this command is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith, from which things some, having missed the mark, have turned away to vain talking, **desiring to be teachers of the law, though they understand neither what they say nor about what they strongly affirm.**”

1 Timothy 1:3-7 WEBUS

- a) The reason Timothy was left behind in Ephesus by Paul was to pastor the young church.
 - b) In his initial letter advising Timothy, the first thing he emphasizes is the importance of good doctrine and coming against anyone who teaches incorrect doctrine.
 - c) He highlights that those teaching what is wrong have an incorrect understanding of God's law.
- (c) The Doctrine of Y'shua...
1. "Jesus therefore answered them, **"My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone desires to do his will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is from God or if I am speaking from myself.** He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but he who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and no unrighteousness is in him. **Didn't Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keeps the law?** Why do you seek to kill me?"
- John 7:16-19 WEBUS
- a) Y'shua was very clear about from where proper doctrine originates.
 - b) He emphasizes that what He came to teach did not come from His own authority, but from His Father who sent Him.

- c) He describes the doctrine of His Father as the law that was delivered to God's people through Moses.
- (d) If you believe Moses, you will believe Y'shua...

1. **““You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and these are **they which testify about me.** Yet you will not come to me, that you may have life. I don't receive glory from men. But I know you, that you don't have God's love in yourselves. I have come in my Father's name, and you don't receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. **How can you believe, who receive glory from one another, and you don't seek the glory that comes from the only God?** “Don't think that I will accuse you to the Father. **There is one who accuses you, even Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote about me. But if you don't believe his writings, how will you believe my words?””** John 5:39-47 WEBUS**

- a) Y'shua is addressing those who have incorrect doctrine. But, there is a lesson here for all of us.
- b) Let's break it down point by point concluding again with the critical nature of understanding the

words of Moses. Unfortunately, the correct interpretation of such has become increasingly uncommon over the centuries.

- 1) Y'shua admonishes those who know that the path to eternal life is found in the Hebrew Scriptures.
- 2) He teaches them that those very Scriptures testify of Him as the long-awaited Messiah, and yet they missed it.
- 3) Why did they miss it?
 - a. They don't understand God's love.
 - b. They are looking for someone who has made a name for himself as opposed to one who glorifies God and points to Yahweh.
 - c. He then questions how they could possibly believe someone seeking their own glory.
- 4) And then He strikes at the heart of the problem:
 - a. It's an incorrect interpretation of the words of Moses. Here it is in a nutshell...
 - b. If you actually believe Moses' words you would recognize that Y'shua is the true Messiah, because all that Moses wrote was specifically about Him.

- c. However, your wrong doctrine about Moses' words prevents your belief in Y'shua's words, as they are the SAME!
- c) Identifying false prophets and false teachers:
 - 1) Can you recognize how discarding Moses' words (not "keeping the law"), which is universal in the modern day church, is a fundamental source of bad doctrine.
 - 2) And if so, then identifying those who teach such is also the chief strategy that can be used to identify false prophets and false teachers!

B. Identifying false prophets...

- (1) "Beloved, **don't believe every spirit, but test the spirits**, whether they are of God, because **many false prophets** have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit who doesn't confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God; and **this is the spirit of the Antichrist**, of whom you have heard that it comes. Now it is in the world already." 1 John 4:1-3 WEBUS
- (a) Test the Spirits

1. “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.** They are of the world. Therefore they speak of the world, and the world hears them. **We are of God.** He who knows God listens to us. He who is not of God doesn’t listen to us. **By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” 1**
John 4:4-6 WEBUS

- a) False Prophets filled with the spirit of the antichrist are everywhere...but you can test the spirits!
 - 1) You can definitively distinguish between *the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*
 - 2) This is the test question: Is Y’shua the Messiah and has He come to earth as a man?
 - 3) Someone who is truly of God has the Holy Spirit dwelling in them and they are in alignment with the doctrine of the apostles... if not then they are not of God
- b) Critical Acknowledgement!
 - 1) The doctrine of the apostles is the doctrine of Christ, which is the doctrine of the Father, which is the doctrine of Moses!

C. Prophetic Insight: False Teachers

- (1) **“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!”** says Yahweh. **Therefore Yahweh, the God of Israel, says against the shepherds** who feed my people: **“You have scattered my flock,** driven them away, and have **not visited them.** Behold, I will visit on you the evil of your doings,” says Yahweh. “I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they will be fruitful and multiply. **I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them.** They will no longer be afraid or dismayed, neither will any be lacking,” says Yahweh. “Behold, the days come,” says Yahweh, **“that I will raise to David a righteous Branch; and he will reign as king and deal wisely, and will execute justice and righteousness in the land.** In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely. **This is his name by which he will be called: Yahweh our righteousness.** “Therefore, behold, the days come,” says Yahweh, **“that they will no more say,** ‘As Yahweh lives, who brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;’ but, ‘As Yahweh lives, who brought up and who led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all the countries where I

had driven them.' Then **they will dwell in their own land.**"" Jeremiah 23:1-8 WEBUS

- (a) Jeremiah prophesied about what Y'shua would experience and unfortunately what we too are experiencing.
- 1. Pastors will scatter God's people, instead of feeding them with truth, and they will be held accountable.
 - a) God will provide for His people by setting up a new breed of pastors who will feed them the truth of His word.
 - b) They will no longer be afraid, dismayed, nor lacking.
 - c) Y'shua (the righteous Branch of David) will reign as king and will execute justice and righteousness.
- 2. His name will be: **Yahweh our righteousness.**
 - a) Paul said it like this about Christ... (consistent with Y'shua's words about Himself in John 5 and 7 and with Moses!)
 - 1) *"For **Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes. For **Moses writes about the righteousness of the law**, "The one who does them will live by them.""* Romans 10:4-5 WEBUS

3. Jeremiah knew the day would come...

- a) When Yahweh's deliverance out of Egypt would no longer be the main event... it would be, instead, the arrival of His people at their ultimate destination (in Christ).

D. Serving Leadership

(1) "Therefore I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and who will also share in the glory that will be revealed: **shepherd the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion, but voluntarily; not for dishonest gain, but willingly; not as Lording it over those entrusted to you, but making yourselves examples to the flock. When the chief Shepherd is revealed**, you will receive the crown of glory that doesn't fade away." 1 Peter 5:1-4 WEBUS

(a) Instead of scattering the flock (not feeding them God's word), shepherd the flock like this...

1. Exercise oversight...

- a) ...willingly, by choice, and not because you are obligated.
- b) ...with an authentic desire to serve, not for corrupt selfish reasons to enrich your personal estate.

- c) ...as an example of sacrificial service, not like a controlling dictator who lords over his subjects.

(b) Y'shua's example...

- 1. Prophecy: When the chief Shepherd comes [again], He will...

- a) *"Behold, **the Lord Yahweh will come as a mighty one, and his arm will rule for him.** Behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. **He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will gather the lambs in his arm, and carry them in his bosom. He will gently lead** those who have their young."* Isaiah 40:10-11 WEBUS

- 1) Gather the lambs...

- 2) Carry them...

- 3) Gently lead...

- 2. Whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant....

- a) *"Jesus summoned them and said to them, "You know that they who are recognized **as rulers over the nations Lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.** But **it shall not be so among you, but whoever wants to become great among you shall be your servant.** Whoever of you*

wants to **become first** among you shall **be bondservant of all**. For **the Son of Man also came not to be served but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”” Mark 10:42-45 WEBUS

- 1) Don't flex your authority...
 - 2) Greatness is marked by service...
 - 3) Winning is measured by service...
 - 4) Don't seek to be served but to serve...
3. A good shepherd...
- a) “**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.** He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who doesn't own the sheep, sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and flees. **The wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them.** The hired hand flees because he is a hired hand and doesn't care for the sheep. **I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and I'm known by my own;** even as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. **I lay down my life for the sheep.** I have other sheep which are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will hear my voice. They will become one flock with one shepherd.”
- John 10:11-16 WEBUS

- 1) Lays down his life for his sheep...
- 2) Protects his sheep from wolves who want to scatter them—not feed them (woe to the pastors who scatter)...
- 3) Knows his sheep and is known by them (is accessible to them)...

(c) Paul's Example...

1. In all these things I gave you an example; shepherd the assembly of the Lord...
 - a) *““Now, behold, I [Paul] know that you all, among whom I went about **preaching God's Kingdom**, will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you today that I am **clean from the blood of all men**, for **I didn't shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God**. Take heed, therefore, to yourselves and to all the flock, in which **the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the assembly of the Lord** and God **which he purchased with his own blood**. For I know that after my departure, **vicious wolves will enter in among you, not sparing the flock**. Men will arise from among your own selves, **speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples** after them.*

Therefore watch, remembering that for a period of three years ***I didn't cease to admonish everyone night and day with tears.*** Now, brothers, ***I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver, gold, or clothing.*** You yourselves know that ***these hands served my necessities,*** and those who were with me. ***In all things I gave you an example,*** that so laboring you ought to ***help the weak,*** and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, '***It is more blessed to give than to receive.***' "" Acts 20:25-35 WEBUS

- 1) **Feed God's People:** Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom.
 - a. "As you go, preach, saying, 'The **Kingdom** of Heaven is at hand!'" Matthew 10:7 WEBUS
 - b. "He sent them out to preach God's **Kingdom** and to heal the sick." Luke 9:2 WEBUS
- 2) Preach to all men so their demise is their choice.
- 3) Preach the entire Word of God, not selective passages that serve your denomination.

- 4) Acknowledge that the Holy Spirit makes leaders, so shepherd God's people accordingly.
- 5) Acknowledge that God's people were purchased by His blood, not yours.
- 6) Recognize that there are vicious wolves out there who will enter the Church and will spare no one.
- 7) These wolves can be identified because they will teach a perverted version of God's word and they will prioritize making disciples who follow after them, not Christ (they will build their own empire, not God's Kingdom!).
- 8) A good pastor will never stop warning against and reprimanding God's people for sin.
- 9) A good pastor entrusts God's people to God's grace and to His word (food). That is what will build them up; that is from where their inheritance comes.
- 10) A good pastor covets no one's stuff!
- 11) A good pastor will work to support himself as needed!
- 12) A good pastor helps the weak.

13) A good pastor remembers what Jesus said; “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

- a. Paul either heard this from one of the disciples or received this supernaturally, because he did not walk with Christ on earth.

E. Spotting Wolves!

(1) ““But the deceiver is cursed who has in his flock a male, and vows and **sacrifices to the Lord a defective thing**; for I am a great King,” says Yahweh of Armies, “and my name is awesome among the nations.”” Malachi 1:14 WEBUS

(a) This is how you spot the wolves...

- 1. They do things for Yahweh that they see as valuable, not what He sees as valuable!

(b) **Spot Pastor Wolves:** they don’t teach the word of God!

- 1. “For I know that after my departure, **vicious wolves** will enter in among you, not sparing the flock.” Acts 20:29 WEBUS
- 2. “The wolf snatches the sheep and **scatters them.**” John 10:12 WEBUS
- 3. “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and **scatter the sheep** of my pasture!” ...the God of Israel, says against the shepherds who **feed** my people: “**You have scattered my flock**, ...I will set up shepherds

over them **who will feed them...**" Jeremiah 23:1-2, 4
WEBUS

(c) **Spot Prophet Wolves:** they prophesy lies and obscure God's exclusive identity!

1. "Beware of **false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing**, but inwardly are **ravening wolves.**"
Matthew 7:15 WEBUS

2. "They intend to cause my people **to forget my name** by their dreams which they each tell his neighbor, **as their fathers forgot my name because of Baal.**"

Jeremiah 23:27 WEBUS

a. Note: Ba'al means "the lord." It has become the standard operating procedure to call God by this generic title and forget that Yahweh is His name and He is the only true God!

(d) Warning to pastors...

1. "'Now, you **priests, this commandment is for you.** If you will not listen, and if you will not take it to heart, to give glory to my name," says Yahweh of Armies, "then **I will send the curse on you, and I will curse your blessings.** Indeed, I have cursed them already, because you do not take it to heart." Malachi 2:1-2
WEBUS

- a) If you continued to usurp God's Glory, Yahweh will turn your blessings into a curse!
- (e) What the pastor should be...
 - 1. **"The law of truth** was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found in his lips. He **walked with me in peace and uprightness**, and **turned many away from iniquity**. For **the priest's lips** should **keep knowledge**, and they should **seek the law** at his mouth; for **he is the messenger of Yahweh** of Armies." Malachi 2:6-7 WEBUS
 - a) One who declares God's commands.
 - b) A witness of contentment and righteousness.
 - c) One who defines sin and leads people to repentance.
 - d) A man knowledgeable in God's word.
 - e) One who pursues obedience to God's word.
 - f) A preacher of God's word, not His own words!
- (f) Object Lesson: false teachers twisted Paul's words!
 - 1. "as also in all of his [Pau's] letters, speaking in them of these things. In those, there are **some things that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unsettled twist, as they also do to the other**

Scriptures, to their own destruction.” 2 Peter 3:16

WEBUS

2. The perfect example of twisting good doctrine:

a) “But the Spirit says expressly that **in later times** some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **seducing spirits and doctrines of demons**, through the **hypocrisy** of men who **speak lies**, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron, **forbidding marriage** and **commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth**. For **every creature of God is good**, and **nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving**. For it is sanctified through the **word of God and prayer**. If you instruct the **brothers of these things, you will be a good servant** of Christ Jesus, **nourished in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine** which you have followed.” 1 Timothy 4:1-6 WEBUS

1) The Holy Spirit revealed to Paul that at some point in the future “*doctrines of demons from seducing spirits*” would twist the truth of God.

b) They will be hypocrites who lie about...

- 1) Marriage: they will teach against the importance and sanctity of marriage!
 - 2) Food: they will teach that we should abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.
- c) Note: those who know the truth know which animals God created as food and which animals God called an abomination to eat.
- 1) Yes, every creature of God (for food) is good (for food), and nothing (God created for food) is to be rejected, but instead is to be received with thanksgiving.
 - 2) Animals permitted for food were set apart in God's word as food and you should thank God in prayer for such provision.
 - 3) Anything other than this is a *"doctrine of demons from seducing spirits."*
- d) But, if you instruct God's people in these things, you are a good servant of Christ Jesus...
- 1) You are nourishing His people in His word and teaching good doctrine.

- 2) Note: unfortunately Paul's words have been twisted into bad doctrine, taught by from poorly trained pastors, which has yielded teachings that are exactly the opposite of these truths.
- 3) They teach that Christians who are instructed to adhere to the words of Moses from the Torah about the foods permitted to eat are listening to the doctrines of demons!
- 4) Can you imagine calling God's word as recorded by Moses the doctrines of demons?
 - 1) *"For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for **he wrote about me.** But **if you don't believe his writings, how will you believe my words?**"* John 5:46-47 WEBUS

(g) What many pastors have become...

1. "But you have **turned away** from the path. You have **caused many to stumble in the law.** You have **corrupted the covenant** of Levi," says Yahweh of Armies." Malachi 2:8 WEBUS
2. "You have **wearied Yahweh with your words.** Yet you say, 'How have we wearied him?' In that you say, **'Everyone who does evil is good in Yahweh's sight,**

and he delights in them;’ or ‘Where is the God of justice?’” Malachi 2:17 WEBUS

a) It is sickening to admit, but this has become all too common in the modern church. Pastors who “weary God with their words and...

1) Leave the faith (as they were actually frauds).

a. *“They went out from us, but they didn’t belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have continued with us. But they left, that **they might be revealed that none of them belong to us.**” 1 John 2:19 WEBUS:*

b. See: [Abiding in Christ Amid Deception: Part II](#)

2) Cause people to stumble. (Woe to those... Mark 9:42-48)

3) Preach a corrupted version of the Gospel (another Gospel/another Jesus... Galatians 1:8-9; 2 Corinthians 11:1-4)

a. *“Everyone who does evil is good in Yahweh’s sight, and he delights in them.”*

b. *“Where is the God of justice?”*

(h) Why does it happen and what Yahweh will do about it?

1. *““Therefore I have also **made you contemptible** and wicked before all the people, according to the way*

you have **not kept my ways, but have had respect for persons in the law.**" Malachi 2:9 WEBUS

- a) It happens because men desire the approval of other men rather than the approval of God!
- b) God will ultimately make these men detestable!

F. Prophetic Insight: False Prophets

- (1) **"Concerning the prophets:** My heart within me is broken. All my bones shake. I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine has overcome, because of Yahweh, and because of his holy words. "For the land is full of adulterers; for because of the curse the land mourns. The pastures of the wilderness have dried up. Their course is evil, and their might is not right; **for both prophet and priest are profane.** Yes, in my house I have found their wickedness," says Yahweh. Therefore their way will be to them as slippery places in the darkness. They will be driven on, and fall therein; for I will bring evil on them, even the year of their visitation," says Yahweh. **"I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria. They prophesied by Baal, and caused my people Israel to err. In the prophets of Jerusalem I have also seen a horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies. They strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one returns from his wickedness.**

They have all become to me as Sodom, and its inhabitants as Gomorrah.” **Therefore Yahweh of Armies says concerning the prophets:** “Behold, **I will** feed them with wormwood, and make them drink poisoned water; for **from the prophets** of Jerusalem **ungodliness has gone out into all the land.**”” Jeremiah 23:9-15 WEBUS

(a) Concerning the prophets:

1. Both prophet and priest are profane.
2. I have found their wickedness in Yahweh’s house.
3. I have seen folly in the prophets
4. They prophesied by Baal (Ba’al means “the lord”) and caused people to err.
5. They commit adultery and walk in lies.
6. They strengthen evildoers, so that no one repents from wickedness.
7. The prophets have caused ungodliness in the land.

(b) Deceived Hearts...

1. “Yahweh of Armies says, **“Don’t listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They teach you vanity. They speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of Yahweh.** They say continually to those who despise me, **‘Yahweh has said, “You will have peace;”**” and to everyone who

**walks in the stubbornness of his own heart they say,
'No evil will come on you.'**" Jeremiah 23:16-17

WEBUS

- a) Don't listen to prophets who prophesy in vanity.
- b) They speak what in their own hearts, not what comes from Yahweh.
- c) They prophesy empty words like...
 - 1) Yahweh says you will have peace even if you follow your own rebellious heart.
 - 2) Fear not, no evil will come on you, even if you do your own thing!
- (c) Yahweh says, *"I didn't send these prophets; I didn't speak to them."*
- 1. **"For who has stood in the council of Yahweh, that he should perceive and hear his word? Who has listened to my word, and heard it? Behold, Yahweh's storm, his wrath, has gone out. Yes, a whirling storm! It will burst on the head of the wicked. Yahweh's anger will not return until he has executed and performed the intents of his heart. In the latter days, you will understand it perfectly. I didn't send these prophets, yet they ran. I didn't speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council,**

then they would have caused my people to hear my words, and would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings. “Am I a God at hand,” says Yahweh, “and not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places so that I can’t see him?” says Yahweh. “Don’t I fill heaven and earth?” says Yahweh.” Jeremiah 23:18-24 WEBUS

- a) Let’s distinguish who is actually hearing from Yahweh and understanding His message.
 - 1) The wicked who aren’t hearing from Him, yet claim to speak for Yahweh, will face His wrath.
 - 2) Yahweh’s anger will not relent until He has executed His judgment against them.
- b) You may not understand this now, but you will understand this perfectly one day.
 - 1) I didn’t send these prophets; they appointed themselves.
 - 2) I didn’t speak to these prophets, they prophesied for themselves.
- c) You can easily determine if they had heard from Yahweh:
 - 1) If they had, they would have caused His people to repent of their evil ways.

2) Yahweh is close by; He is not in hiding as to let evil go without punishing those responsible!

(d) Lies in the name of God...

1. **““I have heard what the prophets have said, who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, even **the prophets of the deceit of their own heart? They intend to cause my people to forget my name** by their dreams which they each tell his neighbor, as their fathers forgot my name because of **Baal.**”** Jeremiah 23:25-27 WEBUS

- a) Yahweh hears the prophets who prophesy lies in His name.
- b) They claim they’ve had prophetic dreams.
- c) These prophets prophesy lies; they are prophets with deceptive hearts.
- d) The prophesy lies with evil intent, to cause God’s people to forget His name for other Gods.
- e) This is precisely what the third commandment speaks of...

1) **““You shall *not misuse the name of Yahweh your God [take God’s in vain], for Yahweh will***

not hold him guiltless who misuses his name."

Exodus 20:7 WEBUS

- a. [Strong's Hebrew 7723](#): [**vain**], **falsehood, emptiness, nothingness**, lying, worthlessness
- b. Ba'al means "the lord." Limiting Yahweh's identity to this title obscures His name.
- c. Yahweh's name has been replaced in your bible with "the lord" over 6800 times.

(e) Revealed by fire...

- 1. **"The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; and he who has my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the straw to the wheat?"** says Yahweh. **"Isn't my word like fire?"** says Yahweh; **"and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"**

Jeremiah 23:28-29 WEBUS

- a) Any prophet who says he had a dream from Yahweh, let him tell the dream.
 - b) Any prophet who says he got a word from Yahweh, let him speak the word.
 - c) Because like straw is separated from wheat, so does Yahweh's fire separate the prophets words from God's words.
- (f) False prophets don't profit this people at all...

1. ““Therefore behold, **I am against the prophets,**” says Yahweh, “who each **steal my words** from his neighbor. Behold, **I am against the prophets,**” says Yahweh, “**who use their tongues, and say, ‘He says.’** Behold, **I am against those who prophesy lying dreams,**” says Yahweh, “who tell them, and **cause my people to err** by their lies, and **by their vain boasting;** yet I didn’t send them or command them. **They don’t profit this people** at all,” says Yahweh.” Jeremiah 23:30-32 WEBUS

2. Yahweh is against false prophets who...

- a) Claim they heard from God when they really just overheard their neighbor talking...
- b) Say “Yahweh says” when He said no such thing.
- c) Prophecy lies about their dreams and cause God’s people to sin.
- d) Boast in vain as if God commanded them and He had not.

(g) Prophets and Pastors

1. ““**When this people, or the prophet, or a priest, asks you, saying, ‘What is the message from Yahweh?’** Then you shall tell them, ““What message? I will cast you off,” says Yahweh.’ **As for the prophet, the priest,**

and the people, who say, 'The message from Yahweh,' I will even punish that man and his household. You will say everyone to his neighbor, and everyone to his brother, **'What has Yahweh answered?'** and, **'What has Yahweh said?'** You will mention the message from Yahweh no more, for every man's own word has become his message; for you have perverted the words of the living God, of Yahweh of Armies, our God. You will say to the prophet, **'What has Yahweh answered you?'** and, **'What has Yahweh spoken?'** Although you say, 'The message from Yahweh,' therefore Yahweh says: **'Because you say this word, "The message from Yahweh,"** and I have sent to you, telling you not to say, **"The message from Yahweh,"** therefore behold, I will utterly forget you, and I will cast you off with the city that I gave to you and to your fathers, away from my presence. I will bring an **everlasting reproach** on you, and a **perpetual shame**, which will not be forgotten.'"" Jeremiah 23:33-40 WEBUS

- a) If you have not heard from God, and the people ask, tell them the truth.

- b) The prophets and pastors who say, "This message is from Yahweh," which is not, will be punished.
 - 1) *"**Let not many of you be teachers**, my brothers, knowing that we will receive **heavier judgment**."*
James 3:1 WEBUS
- c) The problem of speaking for God, in which man's own word has become God's message; perverting the words of the living God, is shameful.
- d) If you have not heard a message from Yahweh, cease and desist speaking for Him.
- e) The prophet who persists in claiming, "The message is from Yahweh," which is not, will be cast from God's presence.
 - 1) *"Don't be deceived. God is not mocked, for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap**."*
Galatians 6:7 WEBUS
- f) Isaiah also had a warning!
 - 1) *"Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood, and wickedness as with cart rope, who say, 'Let him make haste, let him hasten his work, that we may see it; **let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near** and come, that we may know it!' **Woe to those who call evil***

*good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! **Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!** Woe to those who are mighty to drink wine, and champions at mixing strong drink; **who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice for the innocent!**"* Isaiah 5:18-23

WEBUS

G. Maligning truth with immoral ways and deceptive words!

- (1) **"Many will follow their immoral ways, and as a result, the way of the truth will be maligned. In covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words: whose sentence now from of old doesn't linger, and their destruction will not slumber."** 2 Peter 2:2-3 WEBUS

(a) Following the immoral ways of a false prophet...

1. **"But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to throw a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality."** Revelation 2:14

WEBUS

- a) I know your works; some of you who hold the doctrine of Balaam.
- b) He taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.
- c) Repent, or else God will fight against you with the sword of His mouth!
- d) It did not end well for Balaam...

1) [Numbers 31:1-16] **Balaam** the son of Beor **was also killed with the sword.**

2) [Joshua 13:22] *“The children of Israel also killed with the sword Balaam the son of Beor, **the soothsayer**, among those who were killed by them.”*

(b) The way of the truth is maligned with deceptive words....

1. “For our **transgressions are multiplied** before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and as for our iniquities, we know them: **transgressing and denying Yahweh, and turning away from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.** Justice is turned away backward, and

righteousness stands far away; for **truth has fallen in the street, and uprightness can't enter.**" Isaiah

59:12-14 WEBUS

- a) Transgressions are multiplied and their sins testify against them.
 - b) Denying Yahweh: departing from God; promoting oppression and rebellion; and conceiving and spreading lies.
 - c) Truth has been trampled and righteousness has departed your culture!
- (c) Wide is the road that leads to destruction...
1. ""Enter in by the narrow gate; for the gate is **wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction**, and there are **many who enter** in by it. How narrow is the gate and the way is restricted that leads to life! There are few who find it."Matthew 7:13-14 WEBUS
 - a) Unfortunately, many will take that path!
 2. ""**Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing**, but inwardly are ravening **wolves.**" Matthew 7:15 WEBUS
 - a) That path is paved by false prophets!
 3. "**By their fruits you will know them.** Do you gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles? Even so,

every good tree produces good fruit, but the corrupt tree produces evil fruit. A good tree can't produce evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree produce good fruit. Every tree that doesn't grow good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**" Matthew 7:16-20

WEBUS

- a) You can recognize false prophets by how they malign truth with immoral ways and deceptive words!
- 4. **““Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven. Many will tell me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty works?’ Then I will tell them, ‘I never knew you. **Depart from me, you who work iniquity.**” Matthew 7:21-23 WEBUS
- a) The destination of false prophets and false teachers is clear! *“Depart from me, you who work iniquity.”*

EVIDENCE

2. By their fruits you will know them...

A. If even angels are not immune to God's punishment...

- (1) “For **if God didn't spare angels** when they sinned, but cast them down to Tartarus [Greek for Hell], and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment;” 2

Peter 2:4 WEBUS

- (a) Angels forfeited their heavenly dwelling.

1. “**Angels who didn't keep their first domain**, but deserted their own dwelling place, **he has kept in everlasting bonds under darkness** for the judgment of the great day.” Jude 1:6 WEBUS

- (b) Angels, as do false prophets and teachers, had Satan as a role model!

1. “But what I do, that I will continue to do, that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity, that in which they boast, they may be recognized just like us. **For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as Christ's apostles.** And no wonder, for **even Satan masquerades as an angel of light.** It is no great thing therefore if his servants also masquerade as servants

of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.” 2 Corinthians 11:12-15 WEBUS

(c) Where it all began and where it all ends...

1. **“You were the anointed cherub** who covers. Then I set you up on the holy mountain of God. You have walked up and down in the middle of the stones of fire. You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, **until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your commerce,** your insides were filled with violence, and you have sinned. **Therefore I have cast you as profane out of God’s mountain. I have destroyed you, covering cherub,** from the middle of the stones of fire. **Your heart was lifted up** because of your beauty. You have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. **I have cast you to the ground.** I have laid you before kings, that they may see you. **By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your commerce, you have profaned your sanctuaries.** Therefore I have brought out a fire from the middle of you. It has devoured you. **I have turned you to ashes on the earth** in the sight of all those who see you. All those who know you among the peoples will be

astonished at you. **You have become a terror, and you will exist no more.**"" Ezekiel 28:14-19 WEBUS

2. **"How you have fallen from heaven, shining one, son of the dawn!** How you are cut down to the ground, who laid the nations low! **You said in your heart, "I will ascend into heaven! I will exalt my throne above the stars of God! I will sit on the mountain of assembly, in the far north! I will ascend above the heights of the clouds! I will make myself like the Most High!" Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the depths of the pit.**" Isaiah 14:12-15 WEBUS

a) Satan began as an anointed servant...

b) He was cast out of heaven to earth..

- 1) *"There was war in the sky. Michael and his angels made war on the dragon. The dragon and his angels made war. They didn't prevail. **No place was found for them any more in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, the old serpent, he who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.**"* Revelation 12:7-9

WEBUS

c) And He will end in the pit of hell!

- 1) *“And after the thousand years, Satan will be released from his prison and he will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to the war, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up over the width of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. Fire came down out of heaven from God and devoured them. **The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are also. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**”*

Revelation 20:7-10 WEBUS

B. God didn't spare the ancient world...

- (1) “and **didn't spare the ancient world**, but preserved Noah with seven others, a preacher of righteousness, when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly,” 2 Peter 2:5
WEBUS

(a) Flood Narrative (Genesis 6-10)

C. God didn't spare Sodom and Gomorrah...

(1) “and **turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes**, condemned them to destruction, having **made them an example** to those who would live in an ungodly way, and **delivered righteous Lot**, who was very distressed by the lustful life of the wicked (for that righteous man dwelling among them was tormented in his righteous soul from day to day with seeing and hearing lawless deeds),” 2 Peter 2:6-8 WEBUS

(a) Sodom and Gomorrah Narrative (Genesis 19:1-29)

1. “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, having in the same way as **these given themselves over to sexual immorality** and gone after strange flesh, **are shown as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire.**” Jude 1:7 WEBUS

JUDGMENT

3. Protection vs. Punishment

A. The day of judgment

- (1) “then **the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation** and to keep the unrighteous under **punishment** for the day of judgment, but **chiefly those who walk after the flesh in the lust of defilement and despise authority**. Daring, self-willed, they are **not afraid to speak evil of**

dignitaries, whereas angels, **though greater in might and power, don't bring a slanderous judgment** against them before the Lord." 2 Peter 2:9-11 WEBUS

(a) The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation...

1. **"No temptation has taken you** except what is common to man. **God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above what you are able, but will with the temptation also make the way of escape,** that you may be able to endure it. **Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.** I speak as to wise men. Judge what I say." 1 Corinthians 10:13-15 WEBUS

a) God always provides a path to victory!

- 1) *"We know that **all things work together for good** for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose."* Romans 8:28 WEBUS

- 2) *"No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us."*

Romans 8:37 WEBUS

(b) Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry...

1. **"Now these things were our examples,** to the intent we should not lust after evil things as they also

lusted. **Don't be idolaters, as some of them were.** As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." **Let's not commit sexual immorality,** as some of them committed, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell. Let's not test Christ, as some of them tested, and perished by the serpents. **Don't grumble,** as some of them also grumbled, and perished by the destroyer. Now **all these things happened to them by way of example, and they were written for our admonition,** on whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands be careful that he doesn't fall." 1

Corinthians 10:6-12 WEBUS

- a) We have ample examples of the judgment coming against the ungodly...
 - 1) Don't be idolaters!
 - 2) Don't commit sexual immorality!
 - 3) Don't grumble!
- (2) Those who walk after the flesh in the lust of defilement and despise authority...
 - (a) The lust of the flesh...
 - 1. "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh. **For the flesh lusts against the Spirit,**

and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, that you may not do the things that you desire. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **Now the deeds of the flesh are obvious,** which are: adultery, sexual immorality, uncleanness, lustfulness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousies, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these; of which I forewarn you, even as I also forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's Kingdom."

Galatians 5:16-21 WEBUS

- a) The deeds of the flesh are obvious...
- (b) Despising authority... (See [If You Ass-u-me...](#))
 - 1. **"Let every soul be in subjection to the higher authorities,** for there is no authority except from God, and **those who exist are ordained by God.** Therefore **he who resists the authority withstands the ordinance of God;** and those who withstand will receive to themselves judgment. **For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil.** Do you desire to have no fear of the authority? Do that which is good, and you will have praise from the authority,

for **he is a servant of God to you for good**. But if you do that which is evil, be afraid, for he doesn't bear the sword in vain; **for he is a servant of God, an avenger for wrath to him who does evil**. Therefore you need to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake." Romans 13:1-5
WEBUS

- a) Who are the governing authorities to whom you should obey? "He is God's minister to execute His goodness and His judgment."
- b) This discriminates and differentiates to whom you ought to subject yourself; it is certainly not just to anyone simply because he holds a position of authority.
- c) Every governing authority is not of God and He is not demanding we submit to all of them, without some qualifying factors.
- d) Before we blindly follow, let's take a look at a few key qualifiers.
 - 1) **He is God's minister:** He is a servant of God inspired by the Lord to carry out His plan for His people.

- 2) **He is God's arbiter of what is good:** He knows inherently or intrinsically what is right. Anything good originates from God and is empowered by God through faith; nothing and no one can be good otherwise.
 - 3) **He is God's avenger:** He is a special representative of God, an advocate, agent or champion of God and defender of His ways. He is a superintendent, administrator, or ambassador carrying God's authority into the earth and exercising judgment on what and who is evil.
 - 4) **He attends continually to God's business:** He devotes himself entirely, continuously, and steadfastly to his direct assignment from God.
- e) Paul teaches that true authorities are appointed by Yahweh for the good of His people and to champion His cause.
- 1) When they are acting in that position, a minister for good, their authority and therefore their rulings are to be considered as if they are from Yahweh.

- 2) If you don't submit to them, you will bring judgement on yourself, as if you are rejecting God.
 - 3) If necessary, Yahweh uses these anointed officials to discipline His people.
 - 4) The choice is simple; do what is good and you will have favor with God and among His leaders; do what is evil, and you should instead be very afraid of them.
 - 5) Nowhere does God command His people to submit to ungodly rulers when what is being required of them is in violation to God's will.
- f) God is not recommending ungodly obedience as a path to good citizenship.
- 1) **[Read Daniel 6]** Consider Daniel's response when a decree was signed by the king forbidding prayers to Yahweh. On schedule, Daniel knelt before the Lord three times that day, as was his custom.
 - 2) **[Read Acts 4:1-22]** And what about the disciples when they were ordered to stop speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus? Their response was the exact opposite of subjecting themselves

to the governing authorities; “If you believe it is right to listen to you above God, you are dead wrong. We will not cease speaking of the things which we have seen and heard about Christ, because that is what God wants us to do, even if you command otherwise.”

- g) When the governing authorities are ruling in an ungodly fashion, they should be ignored. Instead, God’s people should submit to His higher authority.
 - 1) God’s ministers who attend to the work of God are commissioned to hold His people accountable.
 - 2) Give them the honor and respect they are due. And provide for their needs in every way necessary.
 - 3) And do what is right because it is the right thing to do, not because you fear the consequences.
 - 4) Even angels are afraid to bring slanderous judgment against God’s dignitaries!

B. The day of judgment is approaching quickly!

(1) **“the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation** and to keep the unrighteous under **punishment** for the day of judgment...” 2 Peter 2:9 WEBUS

(a) Prepare, the test is coming...

1. “Beloved, **don’t be astonished at the fiery trial which has come upon you to test you**, as though a strange thing happened to you. But because you are partakers of Christ’s sufferings, rejoice, that at the revelation of his glory you also may rejoice with exceeding joy. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. On their part he is blasphemed, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evil doer, or a meddler in other men’s matters. But if one of you suffers for being a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this matter. **For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who don’t obey the Good News of God?** “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the ungodly and the sinner?”
Therefore let them also who suffer according to the

will of God in doing good entrust their souls to him,
as to a faithful Creator.” 1 Peter 4:12-19 WEBUS

a) Judgment begins in the house of God! And we are
that house!

1) *“but Christ is faithful as a Son over his house.*

We are his house, *if we hold fast our confidence
and the glorying of our hope firm to the end.”*

Hebrews 3:6 WEBUS

2) *“but if I wait long, that you may know how men
ought to behave themselves **in God’s house,**
which is the assembly [church] of the living
God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” 1*

Timothy 3:15 WEBUS

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Why did Paul leave Timothy behind in Ephesus according to 1 Timothy 1:3-7? Use the following passages to explain...

A. The Doctrine of Y’shua... John 7:16-19; John 5:39-47

B. Testing the Spirits... 1 John 4:1-6

2. Jeremiah 23 teaches extensively on the dangers of false teachers and false prophets...

A. Craft and essay summarizing Jeremiah’s prophecy in that passage.

B. How do Galatians 6:7 and Isaiah 5:18-23 relate to Jeremiah's words.

3. Use the following Scriptures to describe excellent pastoring according to:

A. Peter: 1 Peter 5:1-4

B. Y'shua: Mark 10:42-45; John 10:11-16

C. Paul: Acts 20:25-35

4. How do you spot a wolf?

A. Use Malachi 1 & 2; Acts 20:29; John 10:12; Jeremiah 23:1-4; Matthew 7:15; Jeremiah 23:27 to help.

5. According to 2 Peter 3:16, it was common to twist Paul's words to create bad doctrine.

A. Explain how 1 Timothy 4:1-6 has been historically twisted.
(See the sermon notes pages 19-22 for help.)

6. How do false teachers and false prophets malign the truth?

A. Use Revelation 2:14; Numbers 31:1-16; Isaiah 59:12-14 to guide your answer.

B. Y'shua addressed frauds in Matthew 7:13-23. How so?

7. Relate 2 Peter 2:9-11 to the following...

A. 1 Corinthians 10:6-15

B. Romans 8:28, 37

C. Galatians 5:16-21

8. Use to Romans 13:1-5 explain how those who walk after the flesh despise authority.

- A. See sermon notes pages 44-48 for help!
- B. Explain what it means that, "Judgment begins with the household of God." (See: 1 Peter 4:12-19; Hebrews 3:6; 1 Timothy 3:15)