

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

REV. JEFFERY D. BELL SR., PASTOR/TEACHER

2 PETER 2 VS 1-3

“ BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS “

ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RACKETS IN THE WORLD IS THE SELLING OF “ FAKE ART. “ EVEN SOME OF THE FINEST GALLERIES AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS HAVE BEEN INVADED BY PAINTINGS THAT ARE CLEVER COUNTERFEITS OF GREAT MASTERS. PUBLISHERS HAVE ALSO HAD THEIR FAIR SHARE OF HOAXES, PURCHASING “ GENUINE “ MANUSCRIPTS THAT WERE NOT SO GENUINE AFTER ALL.

BUT COUNTERFEITS ARE NOTHING NEW, SATAN IS A “ GREAT IMITATOR “ (2 COR 11 VS 13-15), AND HE HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK EVER SINCE HE DECEIVED EVE AT THE GARDEN (GEN 3 VS 1-7; 2 COR 11 VS 1-4). IF SATAN PORTRAYS HIMSELF AS SOMETHING HE IS NOT THEN THERE ARE PLENTY OF FALSE THINGS ABOUT HIM :

1. **HE HAS FALSE CHRISTIAN S** (MAT 13 VS 38; JOHN VS 44)
2. **HE HAS A FALSE GOSPEL** (GAL 1 VS 6-9)
3. **HE HAS A FALSE RIGHTEOUSNESS** (ROM 9 VS 30 – 10 VS 4)
4. **HE WILL PRESENT A FALSE CHRIST TO THE WORLD** (2 THESS 2)

NOTE: THE NATION OF ISRAEL WAS CONSTANTLY LED ASTRAY BY FALSE PROPHETS. ELIJAH HAD TO CONTEND WITH THE PROPHETS OF BAAL, BUT THEY PROMOTED A FALSE RELIGION. IT WAS THE JEWISH PROPHETS WHO DID THE MOST DAMAGE, FOR THEY CLAIMED TO SPEAK FOR JEHOVAH GOD. BOTH JEREMIAH AND EZEKIEL EXPOSED THIS COUNTERFEIT MINISTRY, BUT THE PEOPLE FOLLOWED THEM ANYWAY. WHY ? BECAUSE THE RELIGION OF THE FALSE PROPHETS WAS:

1. **EASY**
2. **COMFORTABLE**
3. **POPULAR**

THE FACT THAT THE FALES PROPHETS PREACHED A FALSE PEACE DID NOT WORRY THE PEOPLE (JER 6 VS 14). THAT WAS THE MESSAGE THEY WANTED TO HEAR.

THE APOSTLES AND THE PROPHETS LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE CHURCH AND THEN PASSED FROM THE SCENE (EPH 2 VS 20). THIS WHY PETER WROTE ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS, RATHER THAN FALSE PROPHETS, BECAUSE THERE ARE STILL TEACHERS IN THE CHURCH. IN THIS SECTION IN ORDER TO WARN US TO BE ALERT, PETER PRESENTED THREE ASPECTS OF THIS SUBJECT OF FALSE TEACHERS IN THE CHURCH:

I. THE FALSE TEACHERS DESCRIBED (2 VS 1-3) THIS IS NOT A VERY PRETTY PICTURE ! WHEN YOU READ THE EPISTLE OF JUDE, YOU WILL FIND SIMILAR LANGUAGE, AND VIVID LANGUAGE IT IS. PETER KNEW THAT THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD AND THE FALS DOCTRINES COULD NOT COEXIST. THERE COULD BE NO COMPROMISE WITH A CANCEROUS TUMOR IN A PATIENTS BODY. PETER BEGINS TO EXPOSE BY REVELLING THEIR :

A. DECEPTION (1A) THIS THEME IS PAINTED THROUGOUT THE ENTIRE CHAPTER. TO BEGIN WITH, THESE TEACHERS MESSAGE IS FALSE; PETER CALLED WHAT THEY TAUGHT “ DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES “
HERSEY – TO MAKE A CHOICE – SECT – PARTY

PROMOTING A PARTY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH IS ONE OF THE WORKS OF THE FLESH (GAL 5 VS 20). WHEN EVER A CHURCH MEMBER SAYS TO ANOTHER CHURCH MEMBER , “ ARE YOU ON THE PASTORS SIDE OR MY SIDE ? “ HE IS PROMOTING A PARTY SPIRITAND CAUSING DIVISION. A FALSE TEACHER FORCES YOU TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN HIS DOCTRINES AND THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTAIN FAITH.

NOT ONLY WAS THEIR MESSAGE FALSE BUT THEIR METHODS WERE FALSE. INSTEAD OF OPENLY DECLARING WHAT THEY BELIEVED, THEY CAME INTO THE CHURCH UNDER FALSE COLORS AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE TRUE TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. “ THEY SECRETLY BRING IN ALONG SIDE “ IS THE LIBERAL TRANSLATION. THEY DO NOT THROW THE TRUTH OUT IMMEDIATELY; THEY SIMPLY LAY THEIR FALSE TEACHINGS ASIDE THA TRUTH AND GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY BELIEVE THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH. BEFORE LONG, THEY REMOVE THE TRUE DOCTRINE AND LEAVE THEIR FALSE DOCTRINE IN ITS PLACE.

THEY ATTACK TWO KINDS OF BELEIVERS

1. **IMMATURE**

2. **UNTAUGHT**

SATAN IS A LIAR AND HIS MINISTERS ARE LIARS. THEY USE THEIR BIBLE, NOT TO ENLIGHTEN, BUT TO DECEIVE. THEY FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN SATAN FOLLOWED WHEN HE DECEIVED EVE:

1. **QUESTION GOD'S WORD – “ YEAH HAS GOD SAID “** (GEN 3 VS 1-6)

2. **THEN HE DENIED GOD'S WORD – “ YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE “**

3. **SUBSTITUTED HIS OWN LIE – “ YE SHALL BE AS GODS “**

NOTE : KEEP IN MIND THAT THESE APOSTATE TEACHERS ARE NOT INNOCENTLY IGNORANT OF THE WORD, AS WAS APOLLOS (ACTS 18 VS 24-28). THEY KNOW THE TRUTH BUT DELIBERATELY REJECT IT

B. DENIAL (1B) THE FALSE TEACHERS ARE BETTER KNOWN FOR WHAT THEY DENY THAN WHAT THEY AFFIRM. THEY DENY :

1. **THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE**
2. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN**
3. **THE SACRIFICIAL DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE CROSS**
4. **SALVATION BY FAITH ALONE**
5. **REALITY OF ETERNAL JUDGEMENT**
6. **DIETY OF JESUS CHRIST**

NOTE: IT MUST BE MADE CLEAR THAT THESE FALSE TEACHERS ARE UNSAVED. THE BIBLE COMPARES THEM TO :

1. DOGS AND PIGS (2 PETER 2 VS 22)
2. HAVING NOT THE SPIRIT (JUDE 19)

IN WHAT SENSE WERE THESE PEOPLE BROUGHT BY THE LORD

1. **JESUS DIED FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD** (1 JOHN 2 VS 2)

