

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

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“ FALSE PROMISES “

2 PETER 2 VS 17 -18

INTRO: IT IS A FRIGHTENING FACT THAT MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW ZEALOUS MEMBERS OF CULTS WERE AT ONE TIME ATTENDING CHURCHES THAT AT LEAST PROFESSED TO BELIEVE THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL. THEY PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMUNION SERVICE AND SAW THE DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS PORTRAYED IN THE LOAF AND THE CUP. THEY EVEN RECITED THE LORDS PRAYER. YET TODAY, THESE PEOPLE WILL TELL YOU THAT THEY **“ FEEL FREE “** NOW THAT THEY HAVE BEEN **“ LIBERATED “** FROM THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

AT THE SAME TIME, YOU WILL MEET PEOPLE WHO HAVE REJECTED ALL RELIGIOUS FAITH AND NOW PROFESS TO ENJOY A FREEDOM. **“ I USED TO BELIEVE THAT STUFF, “** THEY WILL BOLDLY CONFESS, **“ BUT I DON’T BELIEVE IT ANYMORE. I’VE GOT SOMETHING BETTER AND I FEEL FREE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE. “**

FREEDOM IS A CONCEPT THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT IN TODAY’S WORLD, YET NOT EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS WHAT THE WORD MEANS. NOBODY IS COMPLETELY FREE IN THE SENSE OF HAVING THE ABILITY TO AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHATEVER HE WANTS TO DO. FOR THAT MATTER, DOING WHAT EVER YOU PLEASE IS NOT FREEDOM- IT IS THE WORST KIND OF BONDAGE.

THE APOSTATES OFFER FREEDOM TO THEIR CONVERTS, AND THIS **“ BAIT “** ENTICES THEM TO ABANDON THE TRUE FAITH AND TO FOLLOW THE FALSE TEACHERS. THE TEACHERS PROMISE THEM LIBERTY, BUT THIS PROMISE IS NEVER FULFILLED: THE UNSTABLE CONVERTS ONLY FIND THEMSELVES IN TERRIBLE BONDAGE. THE FREEDOM THEY OFFERED IS A FALSE FREEDOM, AND PETER GAVE THREE REASONS THAT EXPLAIN WHY IT IS FALSE.

I.IT IS BASED ON FALSE PROMISES (2 PET 2 VS 17-18) FAITH IS ONLY AS GOOD AS ITS OBJECT. A PAGAN MAY HAVE GREAT FAITH IN HIS IDOL, BUT THE IDOL CAN DO NOTHING FOR HIM. MANY PEOPLE PUT THEIR FAITH IN INVESTMENT SCHEMES AND LOSE EVERYTHING THAT THEY HAVE. THEIR FAITH WAS STRONG, BUT THE COMPANY WAS WEAK. WHEN YOU PUT YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, THAT FAITH WILL ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING. WHY?

BECAUSE GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISE (I KINGS 8 VS 56)

IN VERSES 17 – 18 PETER USES THREE VIVID ILLUSTRATIONS TO EMPHASIZE THE EMPTINESS OF THE APOSTATES’ PROMISES.

1. **WELLS WITHOUT WATER** (17A) THE GREEK WORD ACTUALLY MEANS A FLOWING SPRING , NOT A TRANQUIL WELL. IT IS THE WORD THAT OUR LORD USED WHEN HE MINISTERED TO THE WOMAN AT

THE WELL (JOHN 4 VS 14) AND THAT JOHNN USED IN DESCRIBING THE SATISFACTION THE SAINTS WILL EXPERIENCE FOR ALL ETERNITY (REV 7 VS 17 ; 21 VS 6) A SPRING WITHOUT WATER IS NOT A SPRING AT ALL! A WELL IS STILL CALLED A WELL EVEN IF THE WATER IS GONE, BUT A SPRING CEASES TO EXIST IF THE WATER IS NOT FLOWING.

THERE IS IN MANKIND AN INBORN THIRST FOR REALITY, FOR GOD. ***“ THOU HAS MADE US FOR THYSELF” SAID AUGUSTINE , “AND OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY REST IN THEE.”*** PEOPLE ATTEMP TO SATISFY THEIR THIRST IN MANY WAYS, AND THEY END UP LIVING ON SUBSTITUTES. ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN GIVE INNER PEACE AND SATISFACTION.

WHOSOEVER DRINKETH (PRESENT TENSE – “ KEEPS ON DRINKING “) OF THIS WATER (IN THE WELL) SHALL THIRST AGAIN, “ SAID JESUS , “ BUT WHOSOEVER DRINKETH (TAKES ONE DRINK ONCE AND FOR ALL) OF THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL NEVER THIRST (JOHN 4 VS 13-14). WHAT A CONTRAST ! YOU MAY DRINK REPEATEDLY AT THE BROKEN CISTERNS OF THE WORLD AND NEVER FIND SATISFACTION, BUT YOU MAY TAKE ONE DRINK OF THE LIVING WATER THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, AND YOU WILL BE SATIFIED FOREVER. THE FALSE TEACHERS COULD NOT MAKE THIS KIND OF OFFER, BECAUSE THEY HAD NOTHING TO OFFER . THEY COULD :

PROMISE BUT COULD NOT **PRODUCE**

II. **CLOUDS THAT ARE CARRIED WITH A TEMPEST** (2 PETER 2 VS 17B) THE PICTURE IS THAT OF CLOUDS OF FOG OR MIST BEING DRIVEN BY A SQUALL OVER A LAKE OR SEA. CHARACTERISTICS OF CLOUDS :

- **REAL CLOUDS ANNOUNCE THE POSSIBILTY OF RAIN**
- **THESE CLOUDS ONLY ANNOUNCE THAT A WIND STORM IS COMING**
- **THEY HAVE MOTION LIKE A REAL CLOUD**
- **THERE IS NOISE**
- **YOU CAN SEE THEM**
- **BUT NOTHING PROFITABLE HAPPENS**
- **LIKE THESE CLOUDS THE FALSE TEACHERS HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER**
- **THEY ARE EMPTY**

III. **THE MIDST OF DARKNESS** (17- 18) THE WORD TRANSLATED “ MIST “ MEANS DARKNESS OR GLOOM SO THE BLACKNESS OF THE DARKNESS WOULD BE THE PROPER TRANSLATION. THESE APOSTATES PROMISE TO LEAD PEOPLE TO THE LIGHT BUT THEY THEMSELVES END UP IN THE DARKEST PART OF THE DARKNESS(SEE JUDE 6 VS 13)!THE ATMOSPHERE OF HELL IS NOT UNIFORM SOME PLACES WILL BE DARKER THAN OTHERS. HOW TRAGIC THAT INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL BE LED ASTRAY BY THESE APOSTATES AND POSSIBLY END UP IN HELL WITH THEM.

QUESTION : IF THESE FALSE TEACHERS HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE, HOW ARE THEY ABLE TO ATTRACT FOLLOWERS? PETER LIST THEM IN VERSE 18:

- A. **THEY ARE ELOQUENT PROMOTERS OF THEIR DOCTRINES** - THEY KNOE HOW TO TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WITH THEIR VOCABULARY, ***“ INFLATED WORDS THAT SAY NOTHING ”*** THE AVERAGE

PERSON DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO LISTEN TO AND ANALYZE THE KIND OF PROPAGANDA THAT POURS OUT OF THE MOUTHS AND PRINTING PRESSES OF THE APOSTATES. MANY PEOPLE CANNOT TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A RELIGIOUS HUCKSTER AND A SINCERE SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST

EX- APPOLLOS (ACTS 18 VS 24-28) WRONG MESSAGE

PAUL WAS CAREFUL NOT TO BUILD HIS FAITH ON HIS :

WORDS OR HIS **WISDOM** (1 COR 2 VS 1-5) – HIS MINISTRY WAS SIMPLE AND PRACTICAL

HE PREACHED TO :

EXPRESS NOT TO **IMPRESS**

HE KNEW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN:

COMMUNICATION AND **MANIPULATION**

- B. THEY APPEAL TO THE BASE APPETITES OF THE OLD NATURE** - THIS IS PART OF THEIR “ BAIT “ (2 PETER 2 VS 14) WE MUST NOT JUST THINK OF THE “ ***LUST OF THE FLESH*** “ ONLY IN THE TERMS OF SEXUAL SINS. READ THE LIST GIVEN IN (GAL 5 VS 19-21), AND YOU WILL SEE THE MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF BAITS THAT THE APOSTATES HAVE AVAILABLE FOR BAITING THEIR TRAPS.

PRIDE - IS ONE OF THE SINS OF THE FLESH AND THE APOSTATE TEACHERS LOVE TO APPEAL TO THE HUMAN EGO. A TRUE SERVANT OF GOD WILL LOVINGLY TELL PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE LOST SINNERS, UNDER THE WRATH OF A HOLY GOD, BUT THE APOSTATES:

- **WILL AVOID TRYING TO PUT THE PERSON ON A GUILT TRIP**
 - **HE WILL TELL HIS LISTENERS HOW GOOD THEY ARE**
 - **HOW MUCH GOD LOVES THEM AND NEEDS THEM**
 - **HOW EASY IT IS TO GET INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD.**
 - **AVOID TALKING ABOUT REPENTANCE – BECAUSE EGOTISICAL MEN DO NOT WANT TO REPENT**
- C. THEY APPEAL TO VERY IMMATURE PEOPLE**