

What went wrong with the prophets?

24 January 2020

609 BC - Battle of Megiddo

Ninevah (capital of Assyria) was overrun by the Medes, Scythians and Babylonians in 612 BC; Assyrian capital was moved to Harran; Harran was captured by the Medes, Scythians, Babylonians in 609 BC; Egypt was allied with Assyria; Pharaoh Necho II (Pharaoh Neco; 2 Kings 23:29) went to war against Babylonians - and was met by **Josiah King of Judah**; Neco warned Josiah - "What have we to do with each other, king of Judah? I am not coming against you this day, but against the house with which I am at war. And God has commanded me to hurry. Cease opposing God, who is with me, lest he destroy you." (2 Chronicles 35:20-23) Josiah persisted and was killed by Egyptian archers.

Jehoahaz son of Josiah was made king, but Pharaoh Neco deposed him only 3 months later. (2 Chronicles 36:2-4) **Jehoiakim son of Josiah** was then made king of Judah.

605 BC - Battle of Carchemish

Because of Josiah fighting against Neco, Neco ends up losing to Nebuchednezzar. Nebuchednezzar comes against Jerusalem 605 BC and takes away the captives (including Daniel).

Ken thinks that Donald Trump was more like Josiah.
So, what went wrong with the prophets?

1. The prophet was **NOT sent by the LORD**.

Jeremiah 23:21-22 "I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my word to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds."

2. They are prophesying out of **deceitful and twisted, unsanctified heart**

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick (twisted); who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

3. They are prophesying with an **unyielded will**

Bala'am son of Beor is told by God that he should not go with those who want him to curse Israel (**Numbers 22:12**) - does it seem that God changed his mind

in 22:20? No - God's anger was kindled because Bala'am went. Bala'am persisted against the will of God.

The prophet is operating in a soulish way - without spiritual neutrality.

Bala'am, after seeing the angel of the LORD opposing him, confesses. He is permitted to go. Bala'am is unable to curse Israel three times, but he gives them the way to lure Israel into idolatry. (2 Peter 2:15)

4. They are prophesying a **lying vision, deceit of their own minds**

Jeremiah 14:14 "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a **lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.**"

Because of deceit in their minds, the vision becomes corrupted.

Do NOT prophecy dates, mates and babies.

5. They are prophesying **visions of their own minds**

Jeremiah 23:16 "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak **visions of their own minds**, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"

Making it up now (prophecy on demand), **Wishful thinkings** (about the future)

6. They are just giving '**nice words**' to those who are rebelling against God

Jeremiah 23:16 "No disaster shall come upon you ..."

7. They are **lying about revelation**

Colossians 2:18 "Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind"

8. Prophesying **the deceit of their own heart**

Jeremiah 23:26 "How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophet lies, and who prophet the **deceit of their own heart**"

Prophesying out of strong emotions, emotional undercurrents; vast majority of the modern prophets are Republicans, most in southern states - emotional bias; ulterior motives

Nathanael - true Israel in whom there is no guile; Jesus is shocked about this

9. Prophets are **repeating words of other prophets**

Jeremiah 23:30 "Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who steal my words from one another"

some prophets were using QAnon; prophets quoting each other

10. Our God allowed it to happen and has taken away the revelation from the false prophets

Isaiah 29:10 “For the LORD has poured out upon you a spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes (the prophets), and covered your heads (the seers)”

Isaiah had a contemporary, **Micah 3:5** “Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry “Peace” when they have something to eat, but declare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths. Therefore, it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without divination. The sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be black over them;”

He who endures to the end will be saved.