

## HOW TO IDENTIFY A FALSE PROPHET

TODAY WE ARE GOING TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE WARNINGS THE BIBLE GIVES US TO IDENTIFY FALSE PROPHETS AND THE RELATION TO THE PRETRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE. I AM NOT INFERRING THAT ANYONE WHO TEACHES A PRETRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE IS A FALSE PROPHET; THERE ARE, HOWEVER, COMMONALITIES BETWEEN THE DOCTRINE OF THE PRETRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE AND WHAT FALSE PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT WERE REBUKED FOR SAYING.

### I. EZEKIEL

#### A. Ezekiel 13:1-16

- 1) false prophets speak from their own inspiration
- 2) majority of false prophets are self-deceived and believe they have a word from the Lord
- 3) “you have not gone up into the breaches” they left God’s people vulnerable, thinking of their own spirit rather than the people
- 4) “they have misled My people by saying, ‘Peace!’” what will appeal to the flesh more: saying, ‘peace’ or warning people that the great battle is here and they need to get ready
  - a) think about the pretribulational rapture versus the pre-wrath/post-tribulational rapture; which one is more appealing to the flesh
- 5) “they plaster it over with whitewash” one cannot be such an important person that somehow Scriptures will conform to you
- 6) “where is the plaster” when the pretribulational rapture does not take place as so many preachers teach, many will be asking, “where is the thing you promised would take place?”
  - a) this is a pastoral issue; it is crucial to consider how our teaching impacts the body of Christ
  - b) those who believed in a pretribulational rapture will have their faith gravely tested in the end times
    - i. Matthew 24:10
- 7) “I will spend My wrath on the wall” the purpose of the end times is to purify and refine us

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II. MATTHEW

A. Matthew 24:42-46

- 1) Scripture often uses “the coming of the Lord” or “the Day of the Lord” as a synecdoche of the end times
  - a) you cannot have a baby without the birth pains, and you cannot have the return of Jesus without the tribulation
- 2) “who then is the faithful and sensible slave” if you are a pastor or a leader, now is not the time to think about your reputation; it is the time to prepare your people