



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Damned Deceptions:
Class 07
Prophets

Tonight I just want to come back
to what Jesus said concerning
prophets...

Matthew 7:15:

“Beware of false prophets, who
come to you in sheep's clothing,
but inwardly they are ravenous
wolves.”

Matthew 24:24:

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

Both the Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Latter Day Church place a focus on prophecy

Each of the leaders of the Latter Day Church claim to be a prophet

The Jehovah’s Witnesses do not claim personal prophets, but are prophets as a group

1972 IDENTIFYING THE "PROPHET" - So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come? These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet. . . This "prophet" was not one man, but was a body of men and women...

“...It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian Witnesses...Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a “prophet” of God. It is another thing to prove it.”

THE WATCHTOWER 4/1/1972

They also claim an angel is there with them to guide them

They make these claims because it gives them a spiritual authority

In this class we are going to discuss the issue of spiritual authority

Who really has spiritual authority?

How do we obtain this spiritual authority?

We will discuss the priesthood next class but tonight our topic is...

Prophets

Per the Law of Moses, a prophet who speaks in the name of the Lord is to be obeyed

Isaiah 18:18 – 19:
“I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto you, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him...”

“...And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not listen unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.”

We are going to look at what the Bible tells us about a Prophet of the Lord

The Bible gives us tests for a Prophet of God and how to know a true prophet from a false prophet
We will be applying these tests to the claims of both the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Latter Day Church

There is a standard set by the Bible when it comes to a prophet being of God.

Deuteronomy 18:20:

“But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die...

The prophet must be correct 100% of the time.

A single false prophecy disqualifies that person from being a prophet of God

God will even go so far as to tell us not to listen to a false prophet.

Deuteronomy 18:22:

“...When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken, but the prophet has spoken it presumptuously: you shall not be afraid of him.”

If the Latter Day Church or the Watchtower Society is proven to be a false prophet; then God is telling us not to listen to them

God is very serious concerning prophecy
And as a result holds a very high standard for a prophet of God
Again, one false prophecy, and that prophet is to be put to death

Deuteronomy 18:20:
“...even that prophet shall die...”

God uses prophecy as a way to
prove that He exists and that He
is in charge.

Isaiah 46:9 – 11:
“Remember the former things of
old: for I *am* God, and there is no
one else; I AM God, and there is
no one like me...”

“...declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done...”

“...saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure’...yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.”

There are no other gods.
Only God is God
God can tell us what is going to happen before it happens
If God declares it; God will make it happen
How is that possible?

I gave this example in our class
on Prophecy
In the modular on Apologetics...

Let me give you a prediction...
On December 12th, four years
from now...
If you go to this specific address
at 2:00 in the afternoon...
A Caucasian man who is in his
seventies will come out the front
door...

He will be wearing a blue long
sleeve shirt, with the sleeves
rolled up
He will be wearing black dress
slacks
He will not be wearing glasses
He will be clean shaven
He will be partly bald

He will open the front door with his left hand

In his right hand he will be carrying a book

It will be "*The Poems of Robert Frost*"

If we would calculate the odds of my getting this prediction right, it would be one out of several millions

If I got this right on all the details that would be impressive, right?

So on December 12th four years from now you go to this address to test my prediction

You are there at 2:00

The man I described exits the house dressed exactly as I predicted
He is even carrying the right book

But on closer inspection you make a discovery...
I am that man.

I did not predict the future
There is only one reason why I knew the future in this case
That reason is because I caused the future to happen exactly as I described it

You will cry, "Foul!"
But you would be wrong.
I did exactly what God does when
He gives us a prophecy...

Isaiah 46:9 – 10:
"...Declaring the end from the
beginning, and from ancient times the
things that are not yet done..."

Q: How can God know the future?
A: God is not part of our
Space/Time Continuum
He is outside of time and can see
past, present and future all at
once

But it is not just that God knows
the future
God causes the prophecy to come
true
He leaves nothing to chance

Isaiah 46:11:
“...I have spoken it, I will also
bring it to pass; I have purposed
it, I will also do it.”

So it is not just that God knows
the future
God controls the future
This is how God can maintain a
standard of being right 100% of
the time

Isaiah 18:18 – 19:

“I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto you, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him...”

“...And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not listen unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.”

So a prophet of God speaks in God’s name
He is God’s representative
He is to be obeyed just as if he were God

If people do not listen, then God will hold them accountable

So a prophet carries a lot of responsibility, right?

If you want to control people and make them obey you...

What greater authority is there than God's authority?

Deuteronomy 18:21:

"And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?'..."

Deuteronomy 18:22:

"...When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken, but the prophet has spoken it presumptuously: you shall not be afraid of him."

A prophet of God is correct 100% of the time.

Even a single prophecy that is false or that does not come true proves that the prophet was not of God.

If someone is a false prophet, we should not listen to him or obey him.

In Bible times a false prophet would be put to death.

There is a second test for a prophet.

If what they say comes true, they must not lead you away to serve other gods.

Deuteronomy 13:1 – 3:

“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder...”

“...And the sign or the wonder comes to pass, whereof he spoke unto you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them...”

“...You shall not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

If a prophet does predict the future correctly, and then tries to get you to worship someone other than God, you should not listen to that prophet.
God is testing you.

And even if this prophet or dreamer of dreams is your own family
Your hand shall be first to cast the first stone and put them to death
You shall not protect them if they do this

Now there is a major difference between a Bible teacher and a prophet of God
A teacher looks at Bible passages and using research and logic tries to understand what God is saying in that passage and shares this with others

A Bible teacher can get it wrong
He/she can get it wrong because
they are speaking in their own
authority
It is their reputation and credibility
that is at stake

They can even say, "God showed
me this..."
And it is not prophesy
A prophet speaks for God
Not about God
Bible teachers speak about God
and so they are allowed to make
mistakes and get it wrong

But a prophet does not choose to
be a prophet
Nobody volunteers for this position
They are called by God, and only
God can make someone a prophet
If God calls them to be a prophet,
then they speak for God

They are not just experts on a subject
They have not researched resources and come to an opinion
They are hearing God speak directly to them
And God is instructing them to speak for Him

They are speaking for God
They are standing before you in the place of God
They are to be given the same obedience that you would give to God
This is why God holds them to a higher standard

I need to make it clear that both the Latter Day Church and the Watchtower Society are the ones making claims to be modern day prophets

They are claiming that God called them to be prophets for Him
This claim will also have to be put to the same test to see if they have made even one prophecy that did not come to pass

They are claiming supernatural forces are leading them and guiding them
If these forces are not of God, then there is only one other source of supernatural influence left to claim

I John 4:1:
“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

This is their claim, not ours
By claiming to be modern day
prophets they have placed
themselves under the test for a
prophet of God...

The One True Church was
founded on April 6, 1830 in
Fayette, New York...
This was the original name of the
Latter Day Church

*“Revelation given to Joseph
Smith the Prophet, at Fayette,
New York, April 6, 1830:”*

*“Joseph Smith is called to be a
seer, translator, **PROPHET**,
apostle, and elder...”*

[Doctrine and Covenants 21:1 - 3]

The Watchtower Society placed a great deal of emphasis on the fact that they spoke for God.
Anything published in their documents was the same as God speaking to the Witnesses.

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THE WATCHTOWER 4/1/1972

The Watchtower Society even predicted the Second Coming of Jesus.

Not just once, but several times.

They gave very specific dates

Matthew 24:36:

“But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but my Father only.”

Despite Jesus specifically declaring that no one would know the hour, the Watchtower Society began to predict [prophecy] in their publications the date of the return.

As it was printed in their documents, they were claiming that they were speaking for God i.e. They were claiming to be prophets

The Watchtower Society (WS) predicted that 1914 would mark the overthrow of human governments and the full establishment of God's kingdom on earth.

[*Studies in the Scriptures Vol 2*
Watchtower Track and Bible Society
1888 page 98 – 99]

1889 "The 'battle of the great day of God Almighty' (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D., 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership is already commenced."

THE TIME IS AT HAND p 101
(1908 edition)

Studies in the Scriptures (1891) refers to “the full establishment of the Kingdom of God in the earth at A.D. 1914.”

The Jehovah’s Witnesses still cling to this prophecy as this is the year when World War I began

They claim the Kingdom is invisible.

Matthew 24:23:

“Then if any man shall say unto you, ‘Lo, here is the Christ, or there;’ believe him not.”

Luke 21:8:

“And He said, ‘Take heed that no man deceived you, for many shall come in my name and say, “I am the Christ and the time draws near,” Go you not, therefore after them.”’

When Jesus returns, it will not be in secret.

Luke 17:23 – 24:

“And they shall say to you, ‘See here;’ or, ‘see there:’ go not after them, nor follow them...”

Luke 17:23 – 24:

“...For as the lightning, that lightens out of the one part under heaven, shines unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.”

Everyone will see; everyone will know

1897 “Our Lord, the appointed King, is now present, since October 1874,”

STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES,
VOL. 4 p. 621

1916 “The Bible chronology herein presented shows that the six great 1000 year days beginning with Adam are ended, and that the great 7th Day, the 1000 years of Christ's Reign, began in 1873”

THE TIME IS AT HAND p. 2
(Forward)

1918 “Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old, particularly those named by the Apostle in Hebrews 11, to the condition of human perfection.”

MILLIONS NOW LIVING WILL NEVER DIE p. 89

The WS predicted that in 1925 select Old Testament saints (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) would rise from the grave and live in San Diego.

[*Millions Now Living Will Never Die* Watchtower Bible and Tract Society 1920 pages 88 – 90]

Millions Now Living Will Never Die (1920) said, "1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the faithful prophets of old."

1922 "The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures than 1914"
Watchtower 9/1/1922 p. 262

1923 "Our thought is, that 1925 is definitely settled by the Scriptures. As to Noah, the Christian now has much more upon which to base his faith than Noah had upon which to base his faith in a coming deluge."
Watchtower p. 106 4/1/1923

1925 "The year 1925 is here. With great expectation Christians have looked forward to this year. Many have confidently expected that all members of the body of Christ will be changed to heavenly glory during this year..."

"...This may be accomplished. It may not be. In his own due time God will accomplish his purposes concerning his people. Christians should not be so deeply concerned about what may transpire this year."

Watchtower 1/1/1925 p. 3

Sept. 1925 "It is to be expected that Satan will try to inject into the minds of the consecrated the thought that 1925 should see an end to the work."

Watchtower p. 262

1926 “Some anticipated that the work would end in 1925, but the Lord did not state so. The difficulty was that the friends inflated their imaginations beyond reason; and that when their imaginations burst asunder, they were inclined to throw away everything.”

THE WATCHTOWER p. 232

1931 “There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah's faithful ones on earth concerning the years 1914, 1918, & 1925, which disappointment lasted for a time.. .and they also learned to quit fixing dates.”

VINDICATION p. 338

1941 “Receiving the gift, the marching children clasped it to them, not a toy or plaything for idle pleasure, but the Lord's provided instrument for most effective work in the remaining months before Armageddon.”

Watchtower 9/15/1941 p. 288

Our Kingdom Ministry (in 1968) claimed: "There are only about ninety months [7½ years] left before 6,000 years of man's existence on earth is completed."

1968 "True, there have been those in times past who predicted an 'end' to the world, even announcing a specific date, yet nothing happened. The 'end' did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying...Why? What was missing? Missing from such people were God's truths and the evidence that he was using and guiding them."
AWAKE 10/8/1968

1968 "WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO 1975?"
WATCHTOWER 8/15/1968 p. 494

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The WS predicted that in 1975 human history would end and the 1,000-year reign of Christ would begin.
[*Awake Magazine* October 8, 1966 page 19]

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The Jehovah’s Witnesses have stopped setting dates
But that does not wipe out their prior history of speaking prophetically in the name of God and being wrong
They are still classified as false prophets

The Latter Day Church has a similar problem
However, I am going to focus on one prediction made by Prophet Joseph Smith
After all, he is the one who claimed that God made him a prophet

I want to go back to the statement by Joseph Fielding Smith the first night of our class...

“If Joseph Smith was a deceiver, who willfully attempted to mislead people, then he should be exposed; his claims should be refuted, and his doctrines shown to be false, for the doctrines of an imposter cannot be made to harmonize in all particulars with divine truth.”

We do not have to refute all the
leaders of the Latter Day Church
We only need to refute the
founder of the Latter Day
Church...
Joseph Smith

“Mormonism, as it is called, must stand
or fall on the story of Joseph Smith.
He was either a prophet of God, divinely
called, properly appointed and
commissioned, or he was one of the
biggest frauds this world has ever seen.
There is no middle ground.”
Joseph Fielding Smith, Doctrines of
Salvation Vol 1 p. 188

The following discussion of the
prophecy of Joseph is based
upon The Blue Letter Bible’s e-
book, “An Expose´ of
Mormonism” by Eric Grieshaber.

“Hearken, O ye elders of my church, saith the Lord your God, who have assembled yourselves together, according to my commandments, in this land, which is the land of Missouri, which is the land I have appointed and consecrated for the gathering of the saints...”

“...Wherefore, this is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion...”

“...And thus saith the Lord your God, if you will receive wisdom here is wisdom. Behold, the place which is now called Independence is the center place; and a spot for the temple is lying westward, upon a lot which is not far from the court-house.”

Doctrine and Covenants, Section 57:1-3

Doctrine and Covenants, Section 97:19, Revelation given through Joseph Smith, the Prophet, at Kirkland, Ohio, September 23, 1832:

“A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith, Jr., and six elders, as they united their hearts and lifted their voices on high...”

“...Yea, the word of the Lord concerning his church, established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints to stand upon Mount Zion, which shall be the city of New Jerusalem...”

“...Which city shall be built, beginning at the temple lot, which is appointed by the finger of the Lord in the western boundaries of the State of Missouri, and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith, Jr., and others with whom the Lord was well pleased...”

“...Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple, shall be reared in this generation...”

“...For verily, this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of The Lord, which shall fill the house...”

“...And the nations of the earth shall honor her, and shall say: Surely Zion is the city of our God, and surely Zion cannot fall, neither be moved out of her place, for God is there, and the hand of the Lord is there.”

Doctrine and Covenants, Section 84:1-5, Revelation given through Joseph Smith, the Prophet, at Kirkland, Ohio, August 2, 1833.

“Zion shall not be moved out of her place, notwithstanding her children are scattered.

They that remain, and are pure in heart, shall return, and come to their inheritances, they and their children, with songs of everlasting joy, to build up the waste places of Zion...”

“...And, behold, there is none other place appointed than that which I have appointed; neither shall there be any other place appointed than that which I have appointed, for the work of the gathering of my saints.”

Doctrine and Covenants, Section 107:17-20, 12:16, 1833, p. 172.

“...And when the saints were driven out from Jackson County, almost all in the Church expected that they would almost speedily be restored; and a person was considered almost an apostate that would say, they would not return in five years, or ten at the furthest...”

“...The people think of almost everything else but the redemption of Zion, and speak to individuals about it, and they put it off a great distance ahead...”

“...But I do not feel to go to this extreme. I will give you my opinion; so far as the revelation go, in speaking of this subject, I think that this event is nearer than this people are aware of.”
1845 *Journal of Discourse*, Vol. 3, p. 17. A discourse by Elder Orson Pratt, May 20, 1855.

“They are holy places, and they will be held sacred even as Jackson County...”

“...and I shall yet see the day that I will go back there, with brother Brigham and with thousands and millions of others, and we will go precisely according to the dedication of the Prophet of the living God...”

“...Talk to me about my having any dubiety on my mind about these things being fulfilled!-I am just as confident of it as I am that I am called to be a saviour of men, and no power can hinder it.”

1857 President Herber C. Kimball
Journal of Discourses, Vol 6. p. 190.

"I expect to live to be an old man, and to go back with the saints to the land of Jackson County."

President B. Young; "God grant it."
(1857) *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 6, p. 221

“Brethren, I shall go to Jackson County with thousands of this people who will be faithful to their integrity; but we cannot go back until we have built some good houses.”

1861 *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 8, p. 350, Disclosure by Heber C. Kimball

“Who is there that is prepared for this movement back to the center stake of Zion, and where are the architects amongst us that are qualified to erect this temple and the city that will surround it...”

“...And let me remind you that it is predicted that this generation shall not pass away till a temple shall be built, and the glory of the Lord rest upon it, according to the promises.”

March 10, 1861, Elder George A Smith, *Journal of Discourse*, Vol. 9, p. 71

“The day is near when a Temple shall be reared in the Center Stake of Zion, and the Lord has said his glory shall rest on that House in this generation, that is in the generation in which the revelation was given, which is upwards of thirty years ago.”

Elder George Q. Cannon, *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 10, p. 344, October 23, 1864

“We have just as much confidence in returning to Jackson County and the building of a great city that will remain there a thousand years before the earth passes away, as the Jews have in returning to Jerusalem and re-building the waste places of Palestine...”

“...In fact, we have more faith than they have; for they have been so many generations cast out of their land that their descendants have almost lost their faith in returning...”

“...But, the Latter-day Saints are fresh, as it were. There are many of the old stock, who passed through all those tribulations I have named, still living, whose faith in returning to Jackson County, and the things that are coming, is as firm and fixed as the throne of the Almighty.”

Elder Orson Pratt, Salt Lake City, April 10, 1870. *Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 13, p. 138.

“It may be reasonable to assume that in giving this revelation to the prophet the Lord did have in mind the generation of people who would still be living with the one hundred years from the time of announcement of the revelation...”

“...and that they would enjoy the blessings of the temple, and a glorious cloud would rest upon it. It is also reasonable to believe that no soul living in 1832 is still living in mortality on the earth.”

Answers to Gospel Questions, Vol. 4. p. 112, Joseph Fielding Smith, 1972

Has the Temple ever been built on the site in Jackson County identified by Joseph Smith?

No. The Temple has not been built on this location

What does that tell us about Joseph Smith as a prophet of God?

Keep in mind the other warning and test for a false prophet

If what they say does come true

Do they lead you off to worship other gods?

As we have demonstrated in our lesson on "Who Is Jesus? And "Who Is God?"

The god the Latter Day Church wants you to worship

Is not the Jesus and God of the Bible

They are leading you off to
worship gods that we do not know
This will also make them false
prophets
And we should not listen to them

So we have examined the spiritual
authority of the Jehovah's
Witnesses and the Latter Day
Church that resides in a prophet
of God

Based upon the evidence, both
organizations have delivered
prophecies that failed to come
true the way it was presented in
the name of the Lord

This means that both the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Latter Day Church have failed the test for being a Prophet of God

They both now bear the label of false prophets
They may be getting supernatural information from a supernatural source

But that source is not God
As such, we must reject them and their teachings
As prophets of God, they have no authority

We are not to listen to them
We are not to believe them
We are not to follow them

QUESTIONS


