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## False Prophets

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## False Prophets

Balaam	<p>He was hired by the king of Moab to curse Israel (Num. 22-24). He is reviled as a wicked man in the Bible. Balaam refused the panicky request of the king of Moab at first but upon the second attempt to bribe him, Balaam went along with it. (Numbers 22–24). But Balaam's error and the source of his wickedness came from sabotaging the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land. According to Revelation 2:14, Balaam told King Balak how to get the Israelites to commit sin by enticing them with sexual immorality and food sacrificed to idols. The Israelites fell into transgression due to these traps and God sent a deadly plague to them as a result (Numbers 31:16).</p>
The old prophet from Bethel	<p><i>An old prophet, a young prophet and a conniving king.</i> His lying words to another prophet cost a young man his life (1 Kings 13:11-14). Why was the old prophet not punished? He sinned didn't he? The context of this passage is the young prophet and not the old prophet from Bethel. It seems logical that the invitation of hospitality from King Jeroboam was meant to get the prophet to switch his loyalty to him rather than God who placed a curse upon the king and nation. The moral or lesson is clear; the young prophet who had been mightily used of God failed his loyalty test when he trusted the word of a man rather than the word of God. God could not tolerate a disloyal spokesman who was called to warn a king and people of their disloyalty!</p>
Zedekiah	<p><i>You can't hide from the LORD's justice.</i> He wrongly predicted victory for Ahab in his battle with the Syrians (1 Kings 22:11-24) Ahab invited Jehoshaphat, king of Judah to help him free Ramoth in Gilead from Syrian control. Jehoshaphat agreed to do so but wanted to make sure it was God's will. Ahab called on 400 of his prophets, all of whom agreed they should fight. Jehoshaphat doubted their word, however, and asked Ahab to send for a "prophet from the LORD" (1 Kgs 22:7) who would be trusted to tell the truth. Ahab confessed that Micaiah was such a prophet of God but he hated him for always bringing a message of doom against him. Micaiah's message from God to Ahab was that he would suffer a great disaster if he went to war. Zedekiah claimed it was Micaiah who was a false and lying prophet. Ahab disguised himself so as to not draw attention to himself during the battle but a "random arrow" struck him causing a mortal wound. The resounding defeat of his army and his death proved to Ahab that Micaiah spoke the word of God.</p>
Hananiah	<p><i>The prophecy and death of Hananiah the liar.</i> He attempted to refute Jeremiah's 70-year prophecy, saying the Babylonian captivity would last but two years (Jer. 28:1-17). Jeremiah told Hananiah that because of his false prophecy he would die within two years (28:12-16). Two months later Hananiah was dead (28:17).</p>

Shemaiah	<i>God will punish false prophets.</i> Jeremiah predicted Shemaiah's seed would be wiped out (Jer. 29:24-32). Jeremiah sent a letter of warning to the false prophets of Judah because they had ignored his earlier warnings and stayed in Jerusalem (29:15-23). Jeremiah singled out Shemaiah who was an exile who had himself sent a letter to the leaders in Jerusalem to silence Jeremiah (29:24-32). God would eventually punish him and all the other false prophets.
Ahab	<i>Of whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire.</i> Jeremiah predicted the death of this lying prophet (Jer. 29:21-22). This false prophet deceived God's people captive at Babylon and was prophesied against by Jeremiah who said he would be put to death by the king of Babylon.
Zedekiah	<i>A pair of false prophets.</i> Ahab son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah son of Maaseiah were false prophets among the captives of Judah exiled in Babylon. Jeremiah predicted the death of Ahab and also predicted the death of Zedekiah (Jer. 29:21). Their lying messages they claim to have come from God and their villainous behavior brought the judgment of God. Their deaths by burning became a byword of warning to others.
Noadiah	<i>The Devil uses intimidation to shut down work and witness for God.</i> She was a false prophetess in the time of Nehemiah who apparently was in league with Sanballat and Tobiah who sought to intimidate and discredit Nehemiah as he labored to rebuild the gates and walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 6:14).
Elymas	<i>Anti-Evangelism thwarted at Paphos.</i> He was a sorcerer who confronted Paul on Cyprus (Acts 13:6). Both Sergius the proconsul of Cyprus and Elymas (Bar-Jesus) had heard about the teaching of the apostles. Sergius was curious of the teachings but Elymas was afraid to lose his influence with him. He sent for Paul and fellow travelers were invited to visit Sergius. Sergius showed great interest in the gospel message. Elymas "withstood them, seeking to turn aside the proconsul from the faith" (Acts 13:8). Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, caused blindness to come upon the false prophet. This miraculous event stirred the governor to the point of faith. Sergius Paulus believed, "being astonished at the teaching of the Lord" (Acts 13:12).
Jezebel	<i>A Type of Jezebel in our midst</i> She was a teacher of immorality in the church at Thyatira (Rev. 2:20). Or, Jezebel stands in as personification of false teachers in general. The believers at Thyatira were growing in their faith, but they were like the believers of Pergamum who were tolerant of false doctrinal teaching. The false Jezebel-like prophets influencing them by promoting immorality and idolatry were to receive a curse from Christ (Rev. 2:24-29).
An aid to the Antichrist	<i>Victory at Armageddon.</i> A false prophet during the tribulation period (Rev. 19:20). The Antichrist and his human allies will gather at

	Armageddon. The Antichrist and false prophet will be captured and thrown into everlasting hell (Rev. 19:11-21).
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