

# God's Mercy and the Devil's Grace Part 5 of 6: How to Identify False Prophets and Teachers (Presented in 2016)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K-o\\_Av1t1M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K-o_Av1t1M)

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a written document. All the Scripture verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted and are in the red text. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Last week we really began to dig into just how deceptive our adversary the devil can be. The Apostle Paul reveals something very troubling to us. The devil presents himself not as an angel of darkness; he presents himself as an angel of light. That is a real problem because we're told that God, Elohim, is light (1 John). So Satan is presenting himself as the authentic One, the Living God to come.

If it were to end there, that would be troubling enough, but now we know he sends out his ministers who work on his behalf. He has agents to build his kingdom. He sends out his ministers as ministers of righteousness. These agents go forth and bring a message of hope and love. They talk about freedom, grace, and mercy, and they profess their faith in Yeshua.

Think about the deception involved with this. Everything they have to say sounds so good and so right, but it is as the old proverb says—**There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death (Proverbs 14:12)**. That's what Paul was warning us about. These men are bringers of death. They portrayed themselves to be bringers of hope and bringers of salvation. Instead, they are selling death, and they are destroying entire communities. Yeshua called them wolves in sheep's clothing, and Paul, in Acts 20, says they will not spare the flock. Every last one of them will die if these people are not identified; there will be none left.

Today I want to continue to build upon this frightening reality. So we're going to dig into Scripture even further seeking to have those necessary tools to be able to make that identification. When I'm looking at two men who look identical to me, and they're virtually indistinguishable, who are saying and doing the same things, I need to have the tools to know that one of them is actually an impostor. He is a false prophet, false teacher, false pastor, or false preacher. Whatever the case may be, we need to have these tools. We're going to get these tools today.

Last week we looked at a tale of two prophets in 1 Kings. This week we are again going to look at a tale of two prophets. As we look at the story, we're going to get to see the markings of a false prophet or false teacher and what identifies them as such. This is critical information we are going to cover. It doesn't matter what generation a false prophet lived in or what continent they came from because they all possess a common denominator that you need to recognize so you can spot them. By learning this common denominator, you'll have the tools to test them.

With that said, I want to open up today by taking you to the book of Jeremiah. Before we do that, I want to set the stage. Jeremiah 27:1—**In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,** <sup>2</sup> **"Thus says the LORD to me: 'Make for**

yourselves bonds and yokes, and put them on your neck. What a peculiar thing the LORD asked of him. He asked him to make yokes and put them on his neck. Yokes and bonds are something you put on an animal. Why is the LORD asking Jeremiah to do this? The answer is because the LORD is bringing judgment upon the entire world. He is putting the entire world under the authority of the king of Babylon. This did not exclude Jeremiah's own Jewish people; that is why you find this yoke on his neck. The Jewish people were to come under that power and authority like the rest.

So Jeremiah, being a God-fearing man, does what he is instructed to do. Not just that, but as we continue in the passage, we discover the LORD commands Jeremiah to notify the nations that Nebuchadnezzar is coming, and the people would submit their necks under his authority. If they did not do that, this is what would happen—**And it shall be, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and which will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation I will punish,' says the LORD, 'with the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand (Jeremiah 27:8).**

Try to wrap your mind around this. If you're a Jew living in a Godly Kingdom that was established by God Himself, and you are told to submit to a pagan king, imagine that. The LORD warns, if you don't do this, you are going to die. The same goes for all the nations.

Listen to what the LORD goes on to say because the LORD knows things before they happen. He knows the beginning from the end (Isaiah 46). Jeremiah 27:9-10—<sup>9</sup> **Therefore do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your soothsayers, or your sorcerers, who speak to you, saying, "You shall not serve the king of Babylon."** <sup>10</sup> **For they prophesy a lie to you, to remove you far from your land; and [God] will drive you out, and you will perish.** The prophets He is referencing are the prophets of God from Judea. The nations would seek counsel from the diviners, dreamers, and soothsayers.

What an awesome warning! The LORD warns, "Guess what people? I told you to submit yourselves, but I know how the nations and you, Judea, will react." They are going to raise up their prophets, sorcerers, and soothsayers who are going to tell them, "No, No. We don't have to submit to the king of Babylon." That is the context of our story today.

So with this information, we'll dig into our story today. Jeremiah 28:1—**And it happened in the same year, at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth year and in the fifth month, that Hananiah the son of Azur the prophet, who was from Gibeon, spoke to me (Jeremiah) in the house of the LORD in the presence of the priests and of all the people.** This is interesting because here we're introduced to Hananiah, and we are told Hananiah is a prophet of God. What you need to appreciate is that to be a prophet of God you had to be known as one whom the LORD has spoken through. In other words, this was an identification that was a little bit different than the norm in that the people of the land made the identification that he is a prophet.

Do you understand what I'm saying? Let me express it this way. Think about the Kohanim or the Levites. They were Kohanim because they were sons of Aaron. It was lineage according to the flesh. The Levites could serve in the temple because they were the children of Levi. God had separated that tribe from the other tribes. So you would be identified specifically through the flesh.

However, it is not this way with the prophets. To be a prophet, to hold that office, didn't pertain to any one tribe or even any one family. It was the LORD looking down upon a man and deciding who He

wanted to speak through. That is why when the prophet Samuel would come into a town the people would tremble because what was said would come to pass. That's why when the prophet Samuel came into town the people would tremble and ask him if he had come peaceably. They were scared to death. The people identified the prophets, and this is critical to the story. If you're going to appreciate the gravity and the weight of the story, you need to appreciate the fact the people knew who the prophet Hananiah was.

Let me further put this in the context. Look at the setting of what we have here just in the first verse. We have a prophet of God speaking to another prophet of God. That is awesome in and of itself, but we can take it a step further. They are not just speaking at any old place; they are speaking in the most sacred place on planet Earth. That place is the House of the Living God, the Temple. If that weren't enough, we find out in the first verse of this passage that the people, the audience, are not just a bunch of commoners or nobodies. These are the Kohanim. The prophets are in the presence of the priests and the people of the Living God.

Try to imagine this. Their prophet was speaking to another prophet in the Temple of the LORD. The Kohanim, the ones who made intercession on behalf of Israel, who were the teachers of the Torah, were there along with the people of God. In this scenario, I can assure you every single ear was attentive to what was going on here. They were listening to what Hananiah was saying to Jeremiah.

As we move to verse two, we are going to discover exactly what Hananiah has to say to Jeremiah—**"Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: 'I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon (Jeremiah 28:2).** So here we have Hananiah prophesying that the LORD has broken the yoke of Babylon, which is simply to say the LORD has broken His authority over them. The Babylonians will not be under the LORD's authority or power. If you go on to read the following chapters, you discover the LORD is going to do that. The only problem with it is it's not going to happen for a very long time. In fact, many of the people are going to be dead before it happens. We are given the actual timetable within the book of Jeremiah. The LORD said He would complete seventy years which is ten sabbatical cycles. He would see those through, and then these things would happen, but not before. What the LORD said makes what Hananiah said very interesting—**Within two full years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the LORD's house, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon (Jeremiah 28:3).**

Now that is fascinating. Hananiah prophesies that the yoke is going to be broken from the king of Babylon, and now he gives a timetable. He doesn't say, "Oh, it's about a year and a half." He is explicit in saying, "Two full years."

There is something you need to appreciate about all of this. What Hananiah just conveyed to the crowd was exactly what they wanted to hear. It was exactly what they were craving; it was exactly what they were praying for. Do you understand the gravity of having the articles pillaged from the Temple of the Living God and taken into a pagan god's temple? Do you know what that did to the nation? Do you know how debilitating that is? The very pride and symbol of their power was the Temple. It was the symbol of independence, freedom, and liberty from when the LORD took Israel out of Egypt.

The LORD had told the people, "Make Me a sanctuary that I might dwell among you." In the Hebrew language, it actually says, "I want to dwell within you." This was such an awesome symbol of power, freedom, and redemption that had been impeded upon them, and this was crippling.

Put this in a modern-day context. If the White House was to be pillaged and totally altered, and the Constitution burned, how many people we call patriots would be weeping and crying in this nation? How much would they yearn to hear good news that our constitution was going to be restored, and the White House will return to what the forefathers had established? Think about that.

Moving on. Hananiah is going to bring more good news to his people. Jeremiah 28:4—**And I will bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, with all the captives of Judah who went to Babylon,' says the LORD, 'for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.'** In other words, your entire kingdom is going to be restored to you. Every last word that Hananiah speaks here was exactly what they desired. This is what they had shed tears for. They longed to be released from the oppressive rule of Babylon and have their families back. Can you imagine a foreign nation coming in here, ripping up your family, and taking them into captivity? How many prayers will you have prayed to bring them back? This is the context. Hananiah is telling them to expect everything they've been praying for. This certainly looks, on every level, to be an answer to prayer.

When you couple the fact Hananiah told the people exactly what they want to hear, and then you couple that with the fact the people know him to be a prophet, and then you add the fact he has said, "Thus says the LORD," what are you left with? You're left with the most convincing message you've ever heard. That is what you're left with. It's a message of hope and salvation.

In fact, I want to show you how powerful this message really was to the point where Jeremiah himself desires to accept it. Look at what is said here in Jeremiah 28:5-6—**<sup>5</sup> Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and in the presence of all the people who stood in the house of the LORD, <sup>6</sup> and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! The LORD do so; the LORD perform your words which you have prophesied.** Jeremiah confirms it. He wants it because this is also his hope. Continuing—**to bring back the vessels of the LORD's house and all who were carried away captive, from Babylon to this place.**

It is amazing to see his response. There were also all the other people who were gathered in the LORD's house. They were crippled emotionally because of what had been happened to their family members and their king. Their king had been taken away too. They are hurting because this has been total devastation.

What I want to point out here is despite all the emotions Jeremiah was feeling and the weight of his desires, he did not give into those desires and emotions. He did not allow emotions to dictate reality. He takes those emotions, and he puts them into check. Instead, he takes the entire crowd back to the Torah, and this is what he says in Jeremiah 28:7-9—**<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people: <sup>8</sup> The prophets who have been before me and before you of old prophesied against many countries and great kingdoms--of war and disaster and pestilence. <sup>9</sup> As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent."**

Does that sound familiar? We covered this last week in Deuteronomy 18 where it shows us how to identify a true prophet from a false prophet. This is exactly what Jeremiah says. If a prophet speaks, such as Hananiah, and it happens that he prophesied peace, and that comes to pass, then he is a prophet. The LORD has truly spoken through that person.

Well, how did Hananiah respond to Jeremiah's words? We read this in Jeremiah 28:10-11—<sup>10</sup> Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke off the prophet Jeremiah's neck and broke it. <sup>11</sup> And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'Even so I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all nations within the space of two full years.' " And the prophet Jeremiah went his way. Incredible!

So Jeremiah puts this all in check by going into the Word of God, Torah. It's interesting how Hananiah responds. He doesn't backpedal and change his position by saying something like, "Well, now that we are talking about Torah, the legitimate Word of God, maybe it's not going to be two full years. Maybe it'll be some time in the future." Hananiah doesn't do any of that. This prophet moves forward, and he takes this yoke off of Jeremiah and breaks it. Then he does something absolutely amazing; he prophesied as he is breaking this yoke and tells them that in two full years the yoke of Babylon will be broken.

Now, you need to appreciate something because everything these people witnessed, every cell in their body would have told them this is a true prophet of God. Why? Go back to Jeremiah 13 and look at how the LORD works through prophets. In Jeremiah 13, the LORD tells Jeremiah to put a linen waistband around his waist. Then He tells him to take it off and hide it in the crevice of a rock by the Euphrates. Jeremiah does it, and then the LORD sends Jeremiah back to get it. Jeremiah pulls out this sash, and it's completely destroyed. Then the LORD prophesied through Jeremiah at that time, "Looking at this ruined sash. So also will I ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem." Things like this physical manifestation; this is how the LORD works. The people understand this.

Think about 2 Kings 13. Elisha the prophet goes to Joshua the king of Israel. Elisha says, "Listen. Take a bow and arrow." Joshua takes it. Elisha tells him to shoot it out the window, so Joshua does. Then Elisha tells Joshua, "You shot the arrow of the LORD's deliverance." Elisha then tells Joshua to take the remaining arrow and strike the ground. So Joshua strikes the ground three times. Then Elisha tells Joshua, "The LORD will strike Syria three times." Are you starting to see a pattern here of how the prophets move, and how the LORD works through prophets?

Let's go to the New Testament in Acts 21:11. The prophet Agabus goes up to the Apostle Paul, strips Paul's belt from him, and ties Paul's hands and feet. Then Agabus prophesied, "So shall the man who owns this belt be bound by the Jews, and they will deliver him to the Gentiles."

The simple point I'm making here is that everything we have seen thus far, that the Kohanim and men of God are witnessing, is entirely authentic. It lines up with the way God moves. Right?

We need to remember that a really good counterfeit is indistinguishable from the authentic. It looks exactly like the authentic. Make no mistake; the counterfeit gospel looks like God's beautiful message of grace. When the devil comes to counterfeit, it looks exactly like God's.

How many of you have been to a department store or some other store and have witnessed the cashier examining the money? Somebody has handed them a new twenty or one hundred dollar bill. The cashier just kind of looks it over, but they are not able to tell the difference of whether it's a counterfeit or not. What do they do at that point? They have been trained to test it. So they grab that little pen, that marker, and they run it across the bill. As long as the color is right, it's authentic.

That is exactly what we are called to do. Satan is peddling his counterfeit message, his counterfeit

gospel of grace, and most people can't tell the difference because they are not trained. They are not testing it. What does it say in 1 John 4:1—**Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.** I want to be very clear on something. John is not talking about spirits of pagan wickedness in the sense that is how they're going to present themselves. He says these spirits that come are going to seem righteous, but you need to test them.

There's no need to test the pagan demonic spirit. If one comes and stands right before me, I don't need to test it; I know it is a demon. It is really simple. It's the ones who come as angels of light and ministers of righteousness we need to test.

The emotions in your heart are so powerful. The most powerful force on planet Earth is our emotions and the deceptions that go in our heart. Remember what Jeremiah 17:9 says—**The heart is deceitful above all things.** Because of that, we must test everything.

You are going to have situations in your life that are going to arise where you think you're receiving a blessing, and something may appear to you to be very spiritual. Someone may come to you and attempt to speak wonderful news to you that you want to receive. You are going to have to test it. Every situation we're confronted with must be tested.

So, how does the story end? Going back to Jeremiah 28:12-15—<sup>12</sup> **Now the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying,** <sup>13</sup> **"Go and tell Hananiah, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "You have broken the yokes of wood, but you have made in their place yokes of iron." "** <sup>14</sup> **For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "I have put a yoke of iron on the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him. I have given him the beasts of the field also." "** <sup>15</sup> **Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, "Hear now, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, but you make this people trust in a lie."**

It's a lie! What do false prophets, preachers, and teachers do? They get the people to trust in a lie. It is not just any people; it is God's people. This is what they do. I'm telling you; unfortunately, the Church today is riddled with them. They are crawling everywhere, and people are being seduced. They are embracing lies rather than truth. These men give that message of hope. They prey on people's emotions. They sound good; they sound right, but in the end it is the way of death. They're telling people what they want to hear.

Instead of pastors and preachers getting up and giving these fiery messages of repentance and restoration, they give the people comfort. Where are the David Wilkersons of today? Where are the Charles Spurgeons of today? Where are the Leonard Ravenhills of today? Far and few between. Jonathan Kohn is one who is going out preaching a message of repentance at Washington D.C. We do have some, but I'm telling you when you look at the whole, it is not a message of conviction. It is a message of comfort.

We want to be comforted. The seeker sensitive thing is plaguing the Church. They want to be entertained; people don't want to be brought into the Kingdom. They want their fruit today. They want the reward now not in the time to come.

I want to take you to Jeremiah 7. This is one of those passages that make you sit back and ponder. It is

life changing. It is where you see the Bible come to life right now as though the Bible was designed for the age we're living in. Look at what this says in Jeremiah 7:8-10—<sup>8</sup> Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. <sup>9</sup> Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, <sup>10</sup> and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name?

I understand the context of that verse. These people are breaking the commandments of God, but they're not stopping worshiping. They're still going to church; they're going to the LORD's house and lifting their hands. They're praying to Him; they're worshipping Him, and the LORD is confused because they are doing this while they have walked away from Him. They're breaking His commandments.

What we are going to read next is going to blow your mind! The LORD just came out against them in the Jeremiah 7:8-10 verses, and here is their answer—**We are delivered to do all these abominations.** I want you to understand what was just said. When you can read this in the Hebrew and some of the other translations that captivate it a little bit better than the New King James such as the New American Standard, it literally says—**we are delivered that we may do all these abominations.** Some translations say—**we are safe to do all these abominations.** Others say—**we are free to do all these abominations.** Do you want a modern-day translation of what it just said? The response they gave the LORD is, "We are under grace." We are under grace. That is their response to the LORD. The mindset of these people being described here is the very same mindset that is plaguing the Church today.

I want to tell you guys a story. I once gave a message many years ago when I was teaching from the book of Romans. I was quoting Romans left and right and tying it to the Old Testament and other parts of the New Testament. It was really powerful. Well, there were visitors that day. There was a group of guys who visited our church. One of the guys came up to me afterward and said, "Daniel that was an interesting message." You know, when people use the term "interesting," this is going to go somewhere interesting. We started dialoguing for a minute, and after that, he just came right out and said, "Daniel, I feel sorry for you." I asked him why. He responded, "I feel sorry for you because you don't understand that you're walking under Law. You don't understand what God's grace is. You're not under grace; you're in the Law."

At this point, I started rattling off all these Scriptures such as Romans 2:13— **for not the hearers of the Law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.** There was also Romans 3:31—**Do we then make void the Law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the Law.** That is the million dollar question. Then we have Romans 8:7— **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the Law of God, nor indeed can be.**

So I start rattling off these things, and he comes back with this, "Daniel, I'm so sorry. I feel so sorry for you. Do you know we don't have to keep any commandments? We've been released. Jesus kept all the commandments, so we don't have to." This is where he was coming from. This wasn't a moment of scoffing. This wasn't a moment of anything but sorrow in my heart knowing that we can go all the way through the New Testament Scripture, and I can go through one Scripture after another, and nothing penetrated. He just kept coming back with his proposition. So I asked him, "Are you saying that even the Ten Commandments are no longer valid?" He said, "No. We've been set free from that. We don't have to do any of that."

Now that was an extreme case that is hardly deceptive regarding this man going around proclaiming this type of grace because most churches, I hope, will run this guy out. They will not tolerate that kind of theology.

Let me give you one more story. You can feel the weight of what is going on and what people are dealing with. I happened to be listening to a local pastor who was doing a program on a local radio station. A caller called in, and she said, "Someone has sinned against me, and I'm struggling to forgive this person. I am wrestling day and night with this." She bore her heart to him, and this is how he responded, "Why are you struggling? Jesus gave the forgiveness, so you don't have to. You do not have to forgive this person." This was all done on the air.

I am thinking, "Never mind the LORD's Prayer we read every Shabbat, forgive us as we forgive others who transgress against us. Never mind the fact that unless you forgive the sins of those who sin against you, your Father in heaven will not forgive you." Never mind what the Scriptures say. Move that aside because what's been brought in is this pseudo grace. It is the devil's grace. That is what's being taught.

Do you want to know what her response was? She said, "Thank you. You have no idea the burden you have lifted off of me." This radioman went in and severed the conviction of godly sorrow that leads to repentance that produces salvation. He killed it. The enemy came and killed it. This is what we're up against.

Listen to this passage from Ezekiel which ties into what we're talking about—**Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life. (Ezekiel 13:22)**. That is exactly what this gentleman on the radio did. He strengthened the hand of a woman who was struggling to forgive someone. That woman needed to fight through that battle and make forgiveness happen. He released her from that, and he did not give her God's mercy. He must have used the term God's grace ten times in the midst of that conversation. He was so deceptive. What do false prophets do? They get you to trust in a lie. They tell you what you want to hear. She wanted to hear that because she did not want to wrestle.

Ezekiel 13:10—**Because, indeed, because they have seduced My people, saying, 'Peace!' when there is no peace--and one builds a wall, and they plaster it with untempered mortar**. In other words, one pastor goes out and says, "You don't need to keep the commandments of God. They are irrelevant." Never mind the Scriptures that say the wrath of God comes against the sons of disobedience. Paul says this multiple times in multiple epistles. Never mind all of that. Instead, what you grab onto is, "Come as you are. You are fine." And the people, because they have itching ears, plaster it with untempered mortar. They support this stuff.

Going back to the very first verse in Ezekiel 13:1-6—<sup>1</sup> **And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,** <sup>2</sup> **"Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, 'Hear the word of the LORD!' "** <sup>3</sup> **Thus says the LORD God: "Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! "** <sup>4</sup> **They have envisioned futility and false divination saying, "Thus says the LORD!" But the LORD has not sent them; yet they hope that the word may be confirmed (emphasis added).**

I want you to understand something? You have to appreciate false prophets. I said this last week. They don't come out with name tags that say, "Hello, I'm a false prophet." They don't graduate from False

Prophet University. This is what we think. They come, and we don't think, "We know where you're from. You graduated from your False Teacher University. We know who you." That's where you would be deceived. False prophets don't start out as false prophets. They start out as prophets of God. These are men who fear God and whom God has moved through, but unfortunately, over time they jump tracks.

There are so many examples we could talk about of this reality. Do you remember King Saul? He was anointed as a prophet and prophesied among the prophets. What happened to Saul? He jumped tracks.

How about Judas Iscariot? He was a true disciple of Yeshua and went out preaching the kingdom with the rest of the disciples. He went out and healed the sick and cleansed the lepers. He also cast out demons in the name of Yeshua.

Then Judas and the disciples were at the Passover dinner with Yeshua when Yeshua stated that one of them was going to betray Him, no one knew who it was. They had no idea. The men were asking, "Is it I." They didn't automatically say, "Well, clearly it is Judas, Mr. Moneybox. He is dipping into the money. We know exactly who is going to betray Yeshua." That is not what happened.

Does that not scare you when the disciples are dwelling with Judas, and they literally do not know who Yeshua was talking about? That was because Judas wasn't even on the map. He was out there doing the work of the Kingdom. What did he do wrong? He catered to the emotions and the desires of his flesh, and he gave in. He jumped tracks.

You need to understand something about prophets. Prophets of God go forth, and the LORD does a mighty work through them. Think about being put in this position. As a true prophet of God, when you speak, it happens. How empowering is that to your flesh to know when you speak things just happen? Can you imagine having to struggle with that reality and not abuse it?

That is the state that Hananiah is in. His emotions are so overpowering and strong. The things the LORD had probably done with him before were so awesome that people knew him as a prophet. It all just seems to fall into place. It is so seductive.

On that level, we need to think about protecting ourselves from falling into that kind of trap. Just because the LORD does an awesome works doesn't mean you get to dictate reality in the future. We wait upon the LORD. We constantly need to remember this relationship in that we are the servants, and He is our Master. Yeshua is our Master.

Going to go back to Jeremiah, and we're going to finish the story. Jeremiah 28:16—**Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will cast you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have taught rebellion against the LORD.'** Do you know what the penalty for being a false prophet is? Read the Torah. The reality is the LORD will take you out. You are going to die. Why? Because you have taught rebellion against the LORD.

Do you want to know what false prophets do? Do you want to know what the common denominator is for generation after generation? It is the thing stated in Jeremiah 28:16. They teach you to walk away from the commandments of God. That's what they do.

Think about all the texts where it is stated we are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. We are to walk in the light because He is in the light. **Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path (Psalm 119:105)**. This is what we are called to do. We are to walk as He walked.

So after everything that Hananiah prophesied, we find out that in the end, everything he said and did that looked absolutely authentic was a product of his own heart. It was a lie. He abused his office of prophet and fell into an ugly trap. This is what happens; it's always at the expense of truth.

We're going to close with this passage from Isaiah 30:9—**That this is a rebellious people, lying children, [Who is rebellious, and who is a lying child?] children who will not hear the Law of the LORD**. That is who is rebellious.

Go to Proverbs 28:9—**One who turns away his ear from hearing the Law, Even his prayer is an abomination**. When people start telling you that you don't need to follow the instructions in the Bible, and you don't need to keep the commandments even though Yeshua told us—**If you love Me, keep My commandments (John 14:15)**—do not listen to these people because the truth is not coming out of them.

How do we test these people? You go to the Bible, the Word of God. Continuing in Jeremiah 30:10—<sup>10</sup>**Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits**. They are saying, "Tell us what we want to hear. We need this. This is what we crave." The Apostle Paul actually used this passage in his second letter to Timothy 4:3-4.