

2 Peter 2:1-3a

Understanding our Adversaries (2:1–22)

Their Infiltration: *False Teachers are Deceptive* (2:1 – 3a)

Today's Learning Objective:

To gain a better understanding of the methods and motivations of false teachers, both in history and in our present day.

Today's Scripture:

¹ But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ And in their greed they will exploit you with false words.

False Prophets of Old

They shared 3 Common Characteristics

1. They _____
 - a. 1 Kings 22
 - b. Ezekiel 13:1-7

2. Their _____, promising peace and security in contrast to the warnings about judgment given by true prophets.
 - a. Ezekiel 13:10-12
 - b. Jeremiah 8:4-17

3. They were shown to be _____
- a. Ezekiel 13:8-9, 13-16
 - b. 1 Kings 18:36-40
 - c. Duet 13:1-5

Characteristics of False Teachers

1. They are _____
- a. Since Peter accuses false teachers of arrogance later in the chapter, he probably does not mean that they are hiding what they are teaching. Rather, he suggests, they are _____
_____ from accepted apostolic teaching.
 - b. Galatians 2:4-5
 - c. Jude 1:3-4
2. They are _____
- a. The term “Sovereign Lord” translates *despotes*, a term applied to God or Christ 4 times in the New Testament:
 - i. Luke 2:29
 - ii. Acts 4:24
 - iii. Jude 1:4
 - iv. Rev 6:10
 - b. It _____ of the false teachers’ denial.
3. The _____ is destruction
- a. As a metaphor for judgment, the word does not carry the literal meaning of “annihilate” or “cease to exist”, but, with “salvation” as its opposite, denotes the _____.

b. John 12:25, Romans 14:15

4. The _____ is great.

a. Jesus warned that many more people will

_____.

i. Matt 7:13-14

ii. Matt 24:3-11

b. Many will _____ to Christ

i. 1 John 2:3-6, 5:1-5

5. The _____ is disastrous

a. By _____ of the false teachers, and _____, Christians bring great disrepute upon the name of Christ.

i. 1 Tim 6:1-2

ii. Titus 2:1-10

6. False teachers are _____

a. 1 Tim 6:3-10

b. Jeremiah 6:13

7. False teachers are not only known by _____, but also by their _____.

a. Because of their rejection of the lordship of Christ, their lives were characterized by _____

i. Matt 23:28

ii. 2 Thess. 2:7

iii. 1 John 3:4

iv. Jude 1:4,7

Bridge to Today

- The church will always be opposed by direct attacks by non-believers, as well the more subtle attacks of those who call themselves Christians and seek to distort the truth.
- A word of warning might be wise:
 - 1 Cor. 10:23-33
 - Romans 14:1-13
- The shift to postmodern thought
 - Emphasis on feelings and emotion over carefully considered truth claims lays a strong foundation for false teachers who can move the audience emotionally, particularly one that is not biblically literate.
 - 15 second sound bites on the news only emphasize this condition and cripple any attempt at serious and reasoned thought.