

**Remembering
Truth When it
Really Counts**
*"... a primer to
guard against false
teaching by..."*

Understanding Our Adversaries (2:1–22)
**Their Infiltration, Iniquity,
Impurity & Impact**



Teachers: Mark Hurlbert & Dave Torres

2 Peter 2:1-3a

- 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.

The False Prophets of Old

- They shared 3 Common Characteristics
 1. They did not speak with divine authority
 - 1 Kings 22
 - Ezekiel 13:1-7



The False Prophets of Old

2. Their message was one of “good news”, promising peace and security in contrast to the warnings about judgment given by true prophets.

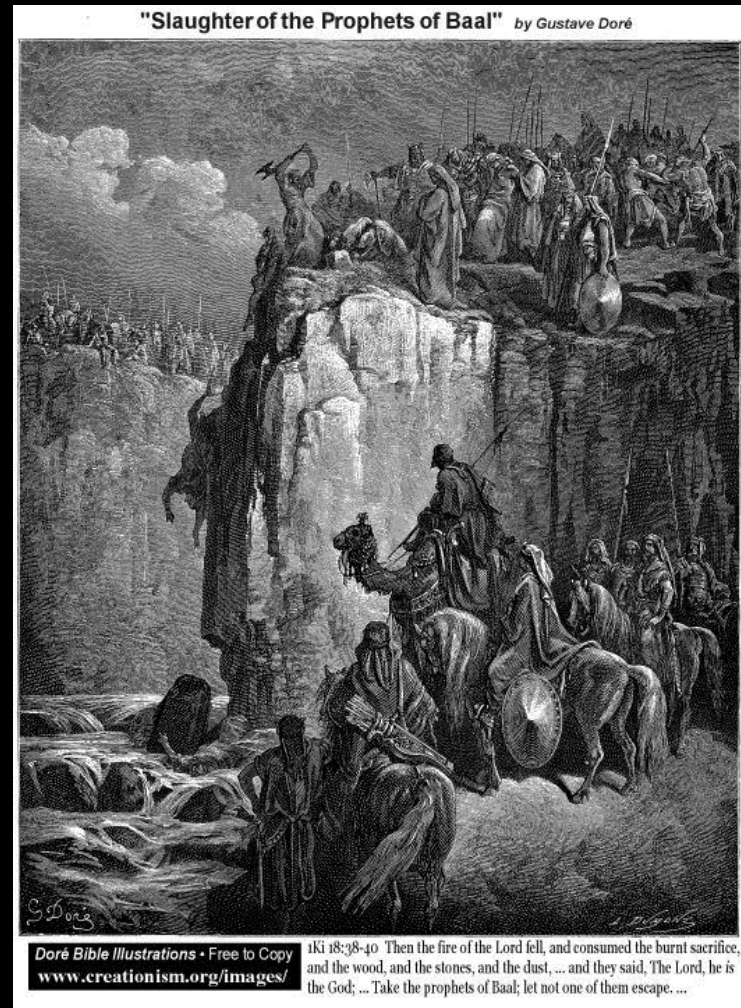
- Ezekiel 13:10-12
- Jeremiah 8:4-17



The False Prophets of Old

3. They were shown to be **worthy of condemnation**

- Ezekiel 13:8-9, 13-16
- 1 Kings 18:36-40
- Duet 13:1-5



Characteristics of the False Teacher

1. They are devious in their manner

- 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 covering up the degree to which their teaching differs from accepted apostolic teaching.
- Galatians 2:4-5
- Jude 1:3-4

Characteristics

2. They are perpetrating a serious error

- The term “Sovereign Lord” translates *despotes*, a term applied to God or Christ 4 times in the New Testament:

1. Luke 2:29

2. Acts 4:24

3. Jude 1:4

4. Rev 6:10

It underscores the seriousness of the false teachers' denial.

Characteristics

3. The outcome of their teaching is destruction

- 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 eternal loss of fellowship with God.
 - John 12:25, Romans 14:15

Characteristics

4. The popularity of these false teachers is great.
 - Jesus warned that many more people will follow the easier way
 - Matt 7:13-14
 - Matt 24:3-11
 - Many will only give superficial allegiance to Christ
 - 1 John 2:3-6, 5:1-5

Characteristics

5. The impact on the Christian movement is disastrous

- By following the erroneous teaching of the false teachers, and following the licentious behavior, Christians bring great disrepute upon the name of Christ.
 - 1 Tim 6:1-2
 - Titus 2:1-10

Characteristics

6. False teachers are motivated by greed

- 1 Tim 6:3-10
- Jeremiah 6:13



Characteristics

7. False teachers are not only known by their teaching, but also by their lifestyle of sensuality

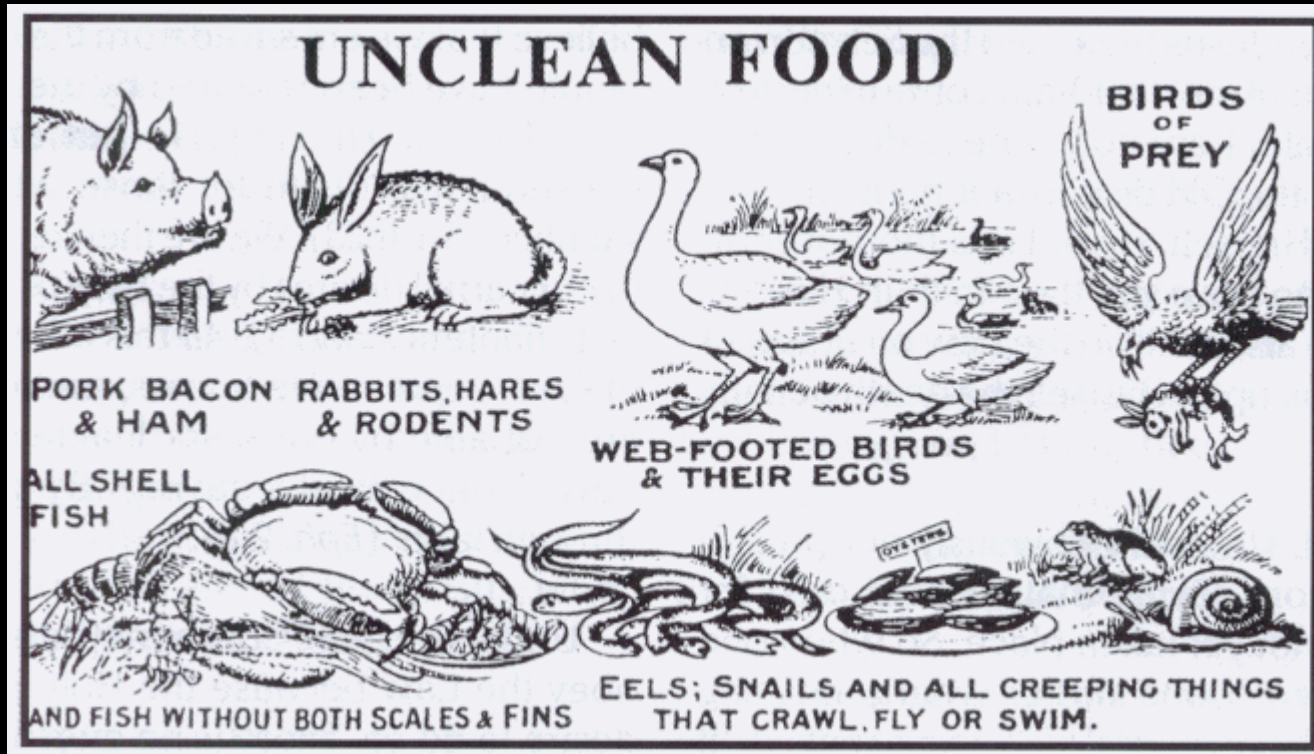
- Because of their rejection of the lordship of Christ, their lives were characterized by unrestrained indulgence and lawlessness
 - Matt 23:28
 - 2 Thess. 2:7
 - 1 John 3:4
 - Jude 1:4,7

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.

Bridge to Today

- A word of warning might be wise:
 - 1 Cor. 10:23-33
 - Romans 14:1-13



Bridge to Today

- 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.

Bridge To Today

- Are there any bridges to today that you see in today's passage?