

Concerning the False Prophets

23: 9-40

597 BC during the eleven-year reign of Zedekiah

Jeremiah now turns to the **false prophets**, his antagonists during his entire prophetic ministry. The adulterous state of the nation was a result of these false prophets. Having given a positive picture of the **Righteous Branch** in 23:1-8, the prophet now returns to a negative message. Throughout the scroll, there is a constant pattern of sin and judgment. It was a message that **he** was called to bring, but did not enjoy doing. Again it was tearing **him** up as it did before. Finally, we learn of **Jeremiah's** burden of his prophetic office.

A summary of the **false prophets**: first, they were never sent by **God** (23:32b); second, they used **God's** name without **His** authority, not having stood in the **Counsel of ADONAI** (23:18-23); third, they had low moral character (23:14-15); fourth, they spread false hopes and promises among the **people** (23:16-17); and fifth, the origin of their **false prophecies** came from their own minds (23:31), their own dreams (23:25-29) and other **false prophets** (23:30).

Jeremiah stood in striking contrast to those **false prophets**. He was sent and appointed by **God** (see **Aj - The Call of Jeremiah**) and used **God's** name with authority. He was a man of high moral integrity. He preached judgment. He stood in the council of **ADONAI**. And He depended upon nothing but direct revelation from **YHVH Himself**.

But the prophet from **Anathoth** lived in the midst of **false prophets** who purported to know **God's** will. In that dispute, the test of a true prophet could be found in the **TaNaKh** (**Deuteronomy 18:15-22 CJB**). The problem was that **Jeremiah** prophesied about the **near historical** events that took decades to come to pass. In the interim, it was not clear who was telling the truth and who was in fact **God's** mouthpiece. **Yirmeyahu**, against the other false prophets, announced the fall of the Temple, Jerusalem and Judah. The false prophets, however, tried in various ways to soften the massive judgment that **he** anticipated. But history would record that **Jeremiah** alone had indeed stood in the **council of the LORD**.