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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 (to see link click 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**.