

# Is Jesus For Real?

Long Beach Alliance Church • August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

***But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.***

***~2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:1 (NASB)***

## 1) From Men Or From God?

- A) The Apostle Peter writes to “like-faith” followers of Christ (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:1) to deal with a growing problem of “false prophets” and “false teaching” (2:1) in the church.
- B) It seems, from Peter’s warnings, that the authenticity of apostolic teaching was being questioned by false teachers, denying their message (1:19-21), and denying Christ (2:1).
- C) Peter’s answer to these accusations is both confident and direct, asserting that his teaching comes straight from his eyewitness experiences with Jesus Christ (1:16), the personal testimony of God (1:17), and the prophetic work of the Holy Spirit of God (1:20-21).
- D) In other words, the proof of the Word of God’s authenticity comes from multiple sources, both divine and human. These authentic testimonies provide a solid foundation for accepting God’s testimony through His Word, the Bible.

## 2) The Proof Is In The Pudding

- A) Further, the proof of the Word of God’s authenticity comes by observing the “fruit” (results) in both the lives of Christ’s followers (1:4-11), and contrasting this against the “fruit” from the teaching of false teachers (2:1ff).
- B) While the character of those who are followers of Jesus Christ is selfless and exemplary (Chapter 1), the character of the false teachers is marked with sensuality (2:2). Rather than a life of selflessness, the lives of false teachers are marked by ego-centric goals which interpret God’s goodness as an opportunity to do as they please.
- C) Further, the character of false teachers is one of greed, an insatiable desire for more (2:3). Whether it is money, power, sex, or possessions -- the false teacher is marked by goals which interpret God’s blessing as an opportunity to achieve personal gain.
- D) These are important indicators of false teaching and destructive heresies which infiltrate the church. They present enticing opposing views which have the appearance of truth, but lead to destruction (2:3).

## 3) The Established Pattern Of Judgment

- A) Peter, taking a page from the book of Jude (note the extensive parallels), points to a pattern of judgment against those who choose to reject God which reaches back historically to ancient days (2:4ff).
- B) By looking to the past history of the Old Testament for “patterns” of judgment, Peter utilizes “typology.” Typology views the elements in the Old Testament as foreshadowing those in the New Testament, particularly those involving Jesus, redemption, and judgment.

- C) Thus, the judgment which angels experienced when they sinned (Jude 6, Genesis 6:1-4), is a foreshadowing of judgment which will come against all those who choose to ignore a relationship with God (2:4).
  
- D) Noah (Genesis 7-9), a typological example of Christ (“a preacher of righteousness”), is a foreshadowing of the preaching of Christ which, when rejected (2:5), will result in a cataclysmic judgment (flood) against an “ungodly” world (Sodom & Gomorrah, 2:6; cf. Genesis 18:20-19:29).
  
- E) The godly man (Lot, Genesis 19), who was saved from judgment will be saved by the Lord (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:7-9), in contrast to those who indulge in sexual sin (2:10) in open and arrogant rebellion against God (2:11).
  
- F) Peter notes that the end-result of false teachers is like that of a hunted animal. Their days are numbered. God is on their trail. Their freedom is limited, and they will be called to account for their self-serving actions (2:12-13).
  
- G) Rather than pursuing righteousness, heresy is marked by seeking adultery (2:14), and pervasive greed for money (2:15). Like Balaam (Numbers 22-24), who was paid money for his prophecies, there will be humiliating humbling and judgment which will come against false teachers (2:15-16).

#### 4) False Teaching Exposed

- A) Exposing the ways of false teachers, Peter informs followers of Christ of the slavery which is coming for those who follow false teaching (2:17-19).
  
- B) Finally, Peter warns Christians to avoid all false teaching, because it can mean destruction of one’s own soul, causing irreparable confusion and destruction.