

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Essence of God - -

Psalms 143:1 Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications! Answer me in Your faithfulness, in Your righteousness!

Matthew 7:13-15 (Review)

- We have noted that Jesus Christ is the narrow gate that people must pass through to enter the kingdom.
- The only way to pass through is by faith alone in Him alone.
- Today, we enter the spiritual kingdom of His body, which is called the Universal Church in theology, *through* faith by means of the Baptism of God the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Colossians 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

The Body of Christ is a spiritual kingdom over which He rules as the head.

At the time of this sermon, those who had believed in Him became kingdom subjects and were guaranteed entrance into His kingdom when it would be established on earth. **2 Samuel 7:12 ff**

Bear in mind the message our Lord preached at that time in history from **Matthew 4:17**.

From that time, Jesus began to preach and say, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”

Μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικεν γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

- **Repent** – μετανοεῶ - METANOEO – “*To change your mind*”
- **At hand** - ἐγγίζω – ENGIZO – “*To be near; approaching in time*”

Matthew 4:17 [Corrected translation] - *Change your mind, because the kingdom of heaven is on the brink of being instituted or being established.*

The kingdom is considered a heavenly kingdom on two points - -

1. The origin of Jesus Christ was heaven; therefore, He is a heavenly king.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.

2. The kingdom would be ruled by heavenly standards or principles.

When Jesus Christ establishes His kingdom on earth, the only people who will be admitted are His subjects - those who have placed their faith alone in Him.

WARNING: Matthew 7:15 is a warning for those who are waiting for the kingdom to be established.

Matthew 7:15 “**Beware of the false prophets,**

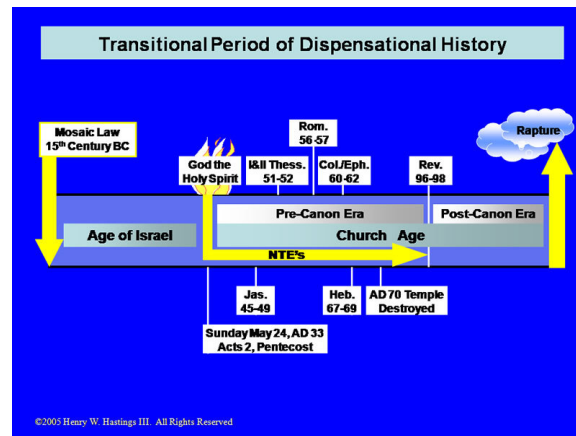
➤ **Beware** – προσέχω – PROSECHO – “*To be alert; watch out for*”

False prophet is one who claims to be a prophet of God, but is not.

- The believer is to remain on alert for false prophets until the kingdom is established.
- At that time, there will be no need to be on alert for false prophets because there won't be any.

How does this apply to us?

2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people [*Jews in the Age of Israel*], just as there will also be false teachers among you [*the Church Age*],



POD - False teachers are a reality in the Church Age; therefore, the Church Age Believer must remain on alert for them.

ON ALERT because they “. . . secretly introduce destructive heresies,

- Destructive heresies lead the believer to spiritual illness.
- False teachers secretly introduce these heresies so they are hard to detect.

Matthew 7:15 [*Corrected translation*] “*Remain on alert or keep on being aware of the false prophets, [false teachers]*”

1 Corinthians 13:9-10 For we know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

Will be done away – καταργέω – KATARGEIO – “*To be nullified; made ineffective; ceased*”

God ceased supernaturally enabling believers to prophecy.

When? “*When the perfect comes*” - Referring to the completed canon of Scripture.

1 Cor. 13:8 indicates the gifts of tongues and knowledge are no longer functioning today either.

Matthew 7:15 [*Corrected translation*] “*Remain on alert or keep on being aware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing [hard to detect],*”

- > They may claim to be Christians.

- > They may talk about Jesus.
- > They may even use the Bible.

. . . but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Wolves [*false teachers*] are very hard to detect, so the Lord provides a way to detect them.

¹⁶ “You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷ “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ “A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire [*judgment*].

SPIRITUAL REGENERATION is a prerequisite to being a good tree!

2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. These false teachers will infiltrate your midst with destructive heresies, even to the point of denying the Master who bought them. As a result, they will bring swift destruction on themselves.

Observe the end for these false teachers; how they bring destruction upon themselves.

God keeps them under punishment for the Day of Judgment.

²⁰ “So then, you will know them by their fruits [*character and works*]. ²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

Fundamentals of the Christian Faith - -

1. Inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture
2. Virgin birth and deity of Christ
3. Substitutionary atonement
4. Bodily resurrection of Christ
5. The physical return of Christ (and immanency of that return)

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.