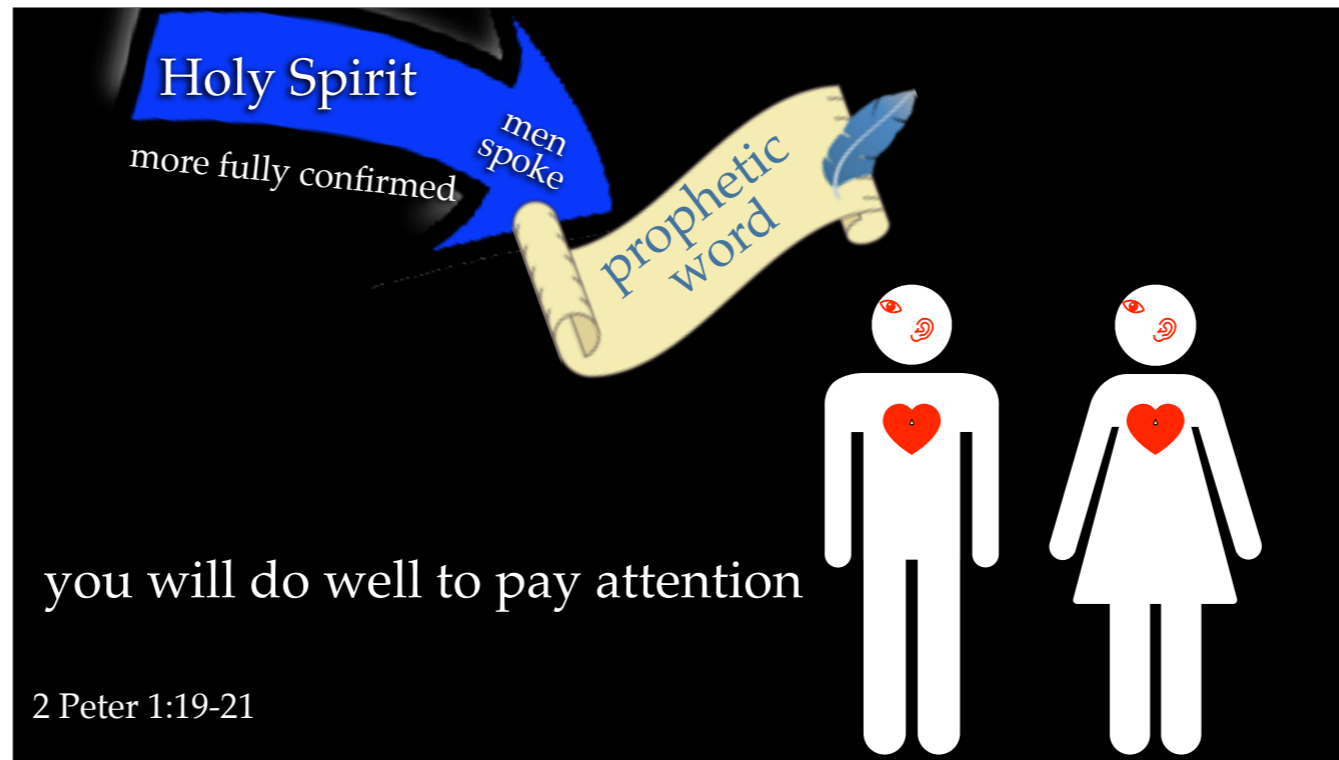
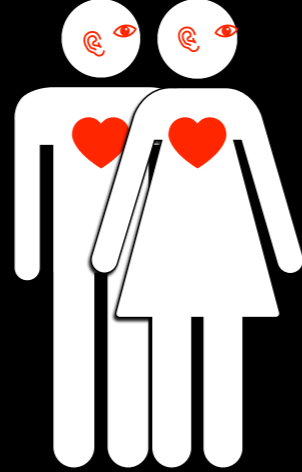



- Peter begins his letter by reminding us that our God calls us to his glory and excellence, to share in his divine nature.
- He emphasizes the importance of the knowledge of Jesus
- In particular that the message we have received is not from the mind and imagination of man




- 2 Peter 1:19-21

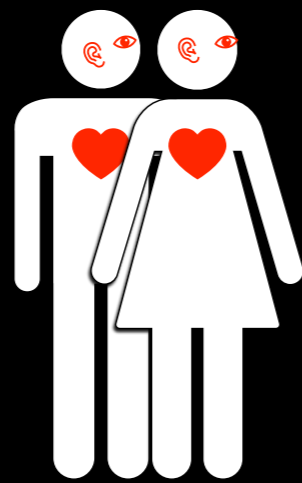

- And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed,
 - to which you will do well to pay attention
 - as to a lamp shining in a dark place,
 - until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,
- 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.
- 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man,
- but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.




But false prophets
also arose among
the people, just as
there will be false
teachers among
you



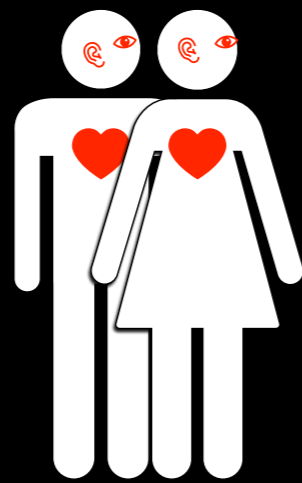

- 2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.
- Peter needs to warn us that just as there were false prophets in the past, we must beware of false teachers




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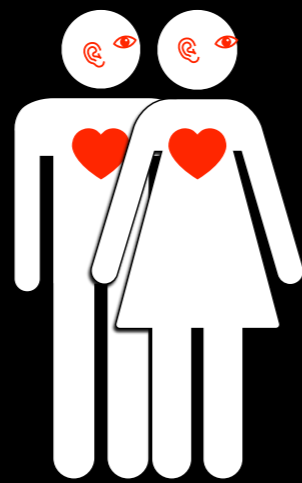

- Jeremiah 5:30-31 (ESV) 30 An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: 31 the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule at their direction; my people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes?
- Jeremiah 14:14 (ESV) 14 And the LORD said to me: “The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.




But false prophets
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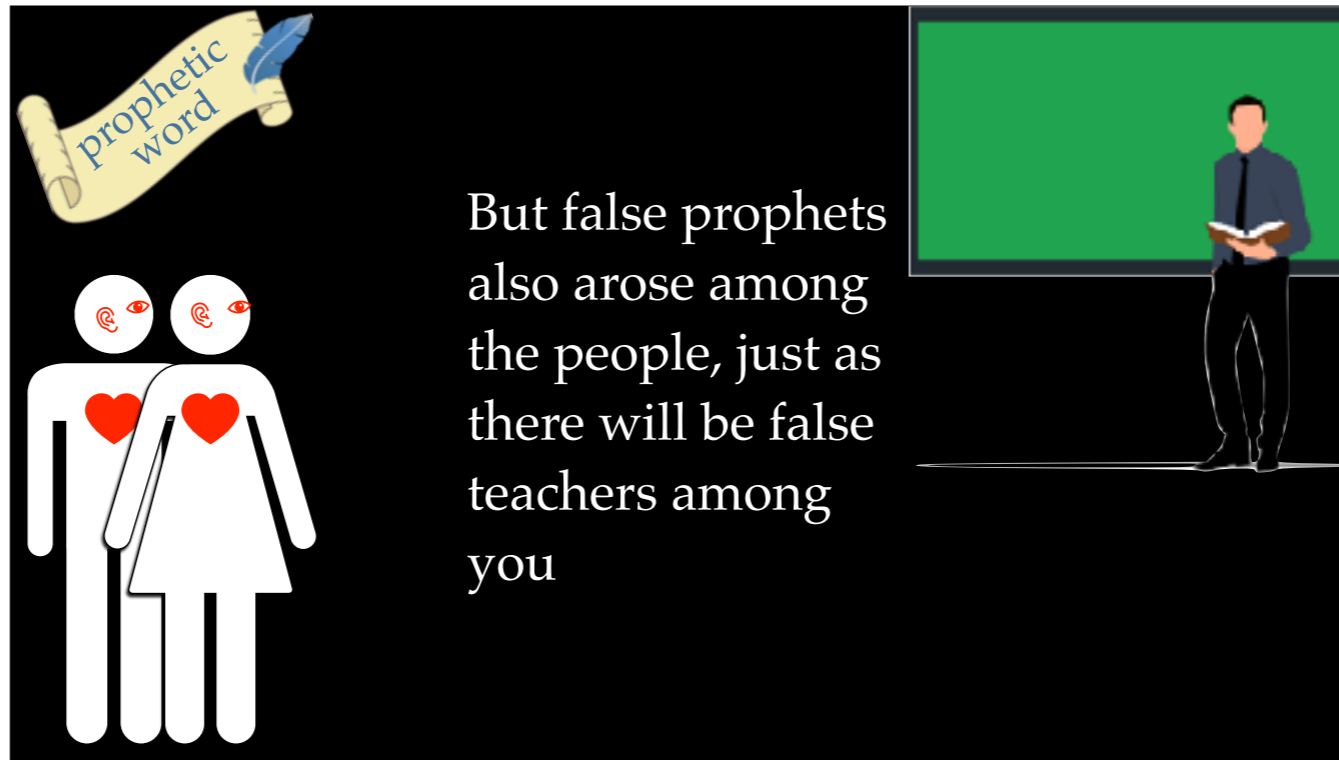
- Jeremiah 23:25-27 (ESV) 25 I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' 26 How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, 27 who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal?



But false prophets
also arose among
the people, just as
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you



- Ezekiel 13:6-7 (ESV) 6 They have seen false visions and lying divinations. They say, 'Declares the LORD,' when the LORD has not sent them, and yet they expect him to fulfill their word. 7 Have you not seen a false vision and uttered a lying divination, whenever you have said, 'Declares the LORD,' although I have not spoken?"



- False teachers are not as obvious and easy to spot as we like to conceive
 - They don't always look a certain way (depending on how your biases run)
 - They don't always teach in certain styles
 - They don't always have obvious error.
 - They don't always appear to us as wolves or lions ready to devour us.



- Peter doesn't leave us guessing, however, about the nature of these false teachers
- He begins by telling us about what they teach, then how they want use us and who they really are.



- Secretly bring in destructive heresies
 - heresies = opinion or choice — self-willed opinion
 - destructive = leads to ruin
- Instead of holding to what was revealed by Jesus and the Apostles
 - Ephesians 2:20-22 (ESV) 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.



- This is not talking about — any — opinion
 - Plenty of passages show that we can make choices about eating of meats, or celebrating days.
 - That we have freedom in Christ
- We tend to want to define anyone as a false teacher who disagrees with me.
 - We see false teachers everywhere.



- denying the master who bought them
 - the opinions Peter refers to are those that are a failure to understand who Jesus is and to honor him as Lord.
 - Peter is warning about those who in their thoughts would lead us away from our Master.
- Denying the deity of Jesus (he only came in the flesh)
- Denying the humanity of Jesus (he was only deity)
- Denying his role in our salvation: whether he wasn't really crucified, or he wasn't resurrected.



- Or claiming we are saved by our own devices
- But it's seldom going to be this obvious
 - Secret
 - They will not outright deny Jesus: but they will undermine him.
 - So we must listen very carefully to what they say.



- Sensuality

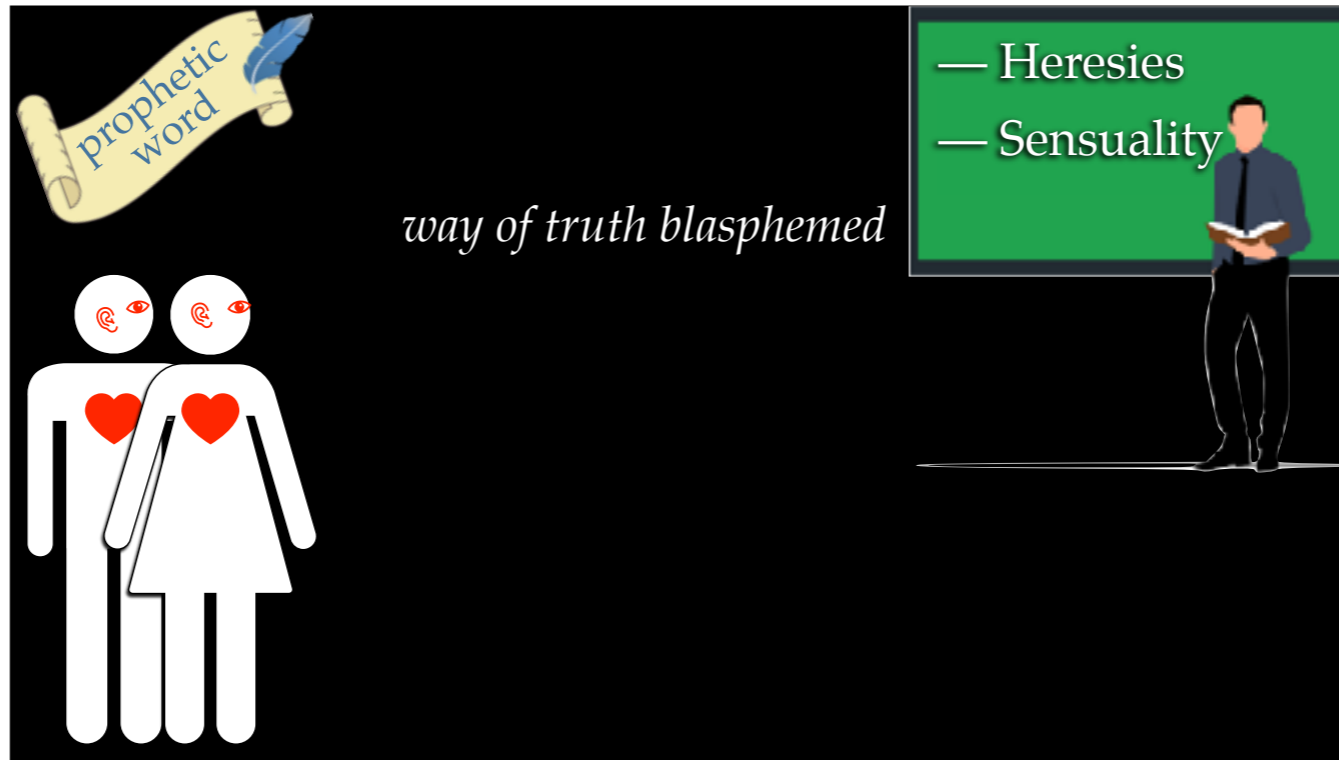
- 1:4: having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.
- 1:9: he was cleansed from his former sins.
- 2:7-8 (concerning Lot): greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard)
- 2:13: They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime.
- 2:14: They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin.
- 2:18: they entice by sensual passions of the flesh



- Sensuality
 - license, excess, no restraint
 - this is not just about sexual fulfillment
 - any kind of extreme focus on the things of this world or of this life
 - (food, houses, wealth, any of the things which we associate with extravagance)



- Remember that Paul warned about various forms of asceticism too
 - Colossians 2:18-19 (ESV) insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head,
 - Colossians 2:23 (ESV) 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.
- The point is that whether by excesses in indulging the flesh or in severity they are not following after true righteousness.



- Because of their focus on pleasing themselves richly,
- Others see this and speak against Jesus, Christianity, being disciples
 - They will point out the hypocrisy
 - They will the excesses (whether they see it as sinful or not) and dismiss following Christ as being just another indulgence,
 - Or they will blame us for being self-righteous.



- Third notable thing about false teachers is greed.
 - Perhaps this one surprises us the most, or we just don't think of it so obviously
- Covetousness, and desire to have more
 - 15) The prophet Balaam typifies this greed, for being unable to curse the people of Israel
 - He still found a way to be made rich by giving advise to Balak that lead the Israelites into fornication and idolatry
 - madness



- When a teacher is focused on acquiring more
 - when they want your money or to be able to use your money
 - when they do things that enrich themselves
 - (Judas complaining about the anointing of Jesus' feet, but the money could have gone to the poor)
- 14: hearts trained in greed



- Peter also provides us with how these false teachers take advantage of us

prophetic word

Rescue

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts

2 Peter 1:19

the kindness and severity of God — Roman 11:22

- So ... there are false teachers
 - God has it under control
 - Don't get caught up in their words or enticement
- Keep going back to God's prophetic word

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Turn off recording.
Blank projector.
Save Keynote.
Switch HDMI

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True Grace

#13

Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
2024 May 12
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False Teachers - part 1

2 Peter 2

Synopsis: Peter helps these saints to understand the dangers of these false teachers who would entice us away from Christ. They have three essential traits: destructive heresies, sensuality, and greed.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”