

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

15 June 2014

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Instruments of Righteousness (Romans 6:13 f)

A.M. Lesson:

God's Role for Fathers (Proverbs 22:6)

P.M. Lesson:

Submission to Rulers and Masters (1 Peter 2:13 f)

Wednesday:

The Decadent Days of Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:23 f)

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

False Teaching

Jeremiah 23 has a lesson about modern false teaching. It explains the importance of knowing God's character and values. It demonstrates the importance of having a devoted and worshipful relationship with God. A lifestyle of prayer and study is a necessary foundation for anybody who believes he has something to teach about God. Reliance upon philosophy and/or dreams is the fast track to teaching error. One red flag is any teaching that promises health and prosperity—a "Prosperity Gospel."

Jeremiah 23:23-32

NASB

23 "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off? 24 "Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD. 25 "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, 'I had a dream, I had a dream!' 26 "How long? Is there anything in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even these prophets of the deception of their own heart, 27 who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they relate to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal? 28 "The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have in common with grain?" declares the LORD. 29 "Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock? 30 "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who steal My words from each other. 31 "Behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who use their tongues and declare, 'The Lord declares.' 32 "Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares the LORD, "and related them and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares the LORD.

Comments

Alex Varughese

The peace and well-being message of the false prophets was rooted in a distorted view of the character of God as a God who is confined to his temple, who could always be counted on for protection and prosperity. The temptation to characterize God

this way and to confine him locally is very much alive in our day. The peace and prosperity message we often hear is evidence of this one-sided view of God. It is this kind of theology that often leads to the distorted view of “God on our side” that is played out in politics and national policies, and particularly on matters of foreign affairs.

This text makes a sharp distinction between false visions and dreams that mislead people and faithful proclamation of God’s word that consumes like fire and breaks rocks like a hammer. Dreams have no lasting effect; they produce only forgetfulness of God. Dreams have no content; they are effective only in turning the people away from the true and living God to gods (Baals) that offer false promises of security and well-being. God’s word spoken faithfully, on the other hand, has the power to penetrate deep, destroy and shatter, but at the same time, to effect change and transformation—it destroys, but it builds up; it uproots, but it plants. It is “living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Heb 4:12 NRSV). The text is an indictment against preaching that serves the purpose of making people feel good and secure in their self-serving and self-centered existence. “I am against” is God’s word not only to those who mislead the people with lies but also to those who expect to hear from their preachers messages that do not bring discomfort to them.

Varughese, Alex. *Jeremiah 1-25: A Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition*. Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press, 2008. 296.

James Smith

The present passage seems to discredit the false prophets on the grounds that they claimed to receive divine revelation through dreams. Furthermore the fact that the prophets permitted what God had forbidden in His word stamped their dreams as products of their own heart (cf. Deuteronomy 13:1-3).

God’s opposition to the false prophets is three-fold. (1) They have stolen the words of God from their neighbors i.e., another prophet who had received a genuine revelation from God. What elements of truth may have been in the message of the false prophet were stolen. No doubt these men carefully scrutinized the sermons of Jeremiah and tried to imitate his style and technique. Perhaps to a certain extent they even copied the content of his message. (2) They used the official prophetic formulas to give their utterances the

aura of truth. They used the word “oracle,” a technical term used by a prophet whenever God put words in his mouth. The false prophets were palming off their own delusions by adopting the same forms as the true prophets used. (3) God opposes these prophets because they are causing the people to err. The major trouble with false teachers is that they always gain a following. The people of Judah believed the lying dreams related to them by the false prophets. How presumptuous, how arrogant, how boastful of these men to claim to speak the word of God when in fact they had nothing more to share with their countrymen than their own wishful thinking. Such men are of no value at all to a nation.

Smith, James E. *Jeremiah and Lamentations*. Joplin: College Press, 1972. 417-418.

News

Potluck today.

Please continue to pray for Joy Gibson’s recovery from a shoulder injury.

Please continue to pray for Billy Martin who is struggling to recover from a foot injury and is experiencing secondary complications.

Bill Eisenberg has returned home.

Bobby Mendez is travelling.

Esther, Nysha and Sara Atchley are in Colorado.

Greg and Louella Briggs are in Montana.

Prayer List:

Bill Eisenberg, Hattie Hedrick, Della Phillips, H.L. Boling, Jerry Robinson’s mother Norma, Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.

Isaiah 62:6

Jerusalem, on your walls I have posted watchmen,

who day and night without ceasing will cry:

‘You that invoke the LORD’s

name,

take no rest...’ (REB).

