

THREE DANGERS LURKING ON FACEBOOK – BEWARE! ©

By Pastor Greg Hooker

TEXT: *Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:30-33).*

INTRODUCTION: Social media's like facebook and twitter have changed the way our world communicates and thinks. Seemingly overnight a new generation of cyber friends were born and began 'cutting their teeth' on an alphabetic keyboard and chasing an electronic mouse.

While these media outlets have opened up a wonderful way to stay in touch with family and friends, they pose many *dangers* as well. The prophet Jeremiah witnessed three of them among the false prophets of his day. As you will see, these three dangers have carried over into our twenty-first century and camped among facebook and twitter. Notice what Jeremiah warned these false prophets about:

I. THEY PLAGERIZED EACH OTHERS WORDS – *“Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.”*

The prophets of God were guilty of 'plagiarism', which, according to the Marriam-Webster dictionary is defined as: 'to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source.'

Jeremiah warned the prophets of God during his day about '*stealing*' another prophet's words, then passing them off as their own. Sadly, the same can be seen today; Pastors, teachers and layman come across some good material written by someone's painstaking study and publish it as their own and fail to give credit where credit is due – this is a form of theft and should never be named among Christians!

It may seem like a small thing to the plagiarist, but in the eyes of God taking something that another has spent sleepless, laborious nights working on and publishing it as one's own is nothing short of robbery! A college student caught in the act of plagiarism would be failed and possibly booted out of class for such an infraction (I personally know a college professor caught and fired for this)!

It's no different than sneaking over to your neighbor's house, taking their lawnmower while they are away and claiming it as your own – God simply says, *“Thou shalt not steal!”* On the other hand, if you

receive permission to *'borrow'* your neighbor's lawnmower it would be perfectly alright. In like manner, as long as one *'borrows'* someone's writing with permission and gives them due credit, there would be nothing amiss, providing there is no copyright infringements.

Since I've been on facebook, this act of stealing (or coping and pasting in the cyber world's jargon) is widespread and commonly practiced, but that doesn't make it right! Taking of something that doesn't belong to you and posting it without permission, or not giving credit to the author, should never be named among the believer. Jeremiah warned these false prophets concerning plagiarism, the theft of another's words.

II. THEY PROCLAIMED FALSE WORDS FROM GOD – *“Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith.”*

In addition to plagiarism, Jeremiah warned these false prophets concerning proclaiming their own words as that of the Lord, when in fact; they did not come from God at all. They lacked any real revelation from the Lord, but let on like they were recipients of Divine Scripture.

Never before has there been a time of *'thus saith a new revelation from the Lord'* like we are now witnessing today. False prophets abound preaching and teaching heresies and doctrines of demons – lies of wickedness oozing from the slimy pits of hell. The Gospel of the blood of the Holy One has been *watered down*, diluted by a *'health and wealth'* philosophy and replaced by a *'feel good'* mentality! Repentance, salvation and holy living through the expiatory death of Christ has taken a back seat in many of our pulpits – just give the people what they want to hear and by all means don't preach anything that will *'offend'*! The paramount question we should concern ourselves with it this: *'are we preaching something that is an offense to a Holy God?'*

Entire passages of Scriptures are being extracted, ripped from God's Word and satanic doctrines are inserted in their place. New *'edited'* versions of the Bible are being produced almost daily. Every time a minority is offended by the Sword of God's Word, a new *'enlightened'* version is born to suit their taste in sinful pleasures. Be that as it may, the Word of God is forever *settled* in Heaven and YEHWAH sets upon His throne and laughs at the puny efforts of man to eliminate and insert their own blend of lies and vile ideas.

My friends, if it doesn't line up with the Word of God and if the whole counsel of the Lord isn't taught or preached; it's a *'lukewarm'* message at best – it makes God sick! Many false religions have been born out of a *'new revelation'* from the Lord – Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Scientology, just to name a few. The prophet Jeremiah warned of proclaiming false words from God.

III. THEY PROPHESED FALSE DREAMS – *“Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness;*

yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.” (see also Jeremiah 23:25).

Not only did Jeremiah warn of plagiarism and proclaiming false words from God; but he cautioned against ‘prophetic dreams’ purportedly sent from the Lord. While all of us have had dreams that have influenced our lives in one way or another, the dreams of these men were deemed prophetic utterances from Jehovah himself.

Although they have been around since the dawn of mankind, in the past few years I have seen a surge of those claiming to have had dreams as divine oracles of God. Most of which do not line up with the inspired, written, Word of the Lord. I live within a few miles of a dozen fortune tellers, soothe sayers, and interpreters of dreams. For a price they will read your fortunes and interpret your dreams and laugh their way to the bank.

I am here to go on record; if someone claims to have ‘heard a new revelation’ from the Lord through a dream, or any other divination, avoid it like the plague! This includes astrology, palm reading, tarot cards, horoscopes, tea leaves and any other mumbo jumbo that is organized and run by evil forces! Satan is a mastermind at delving and inserting half-truths into the ‘minds’ and ‘thoughts’ of weary and often well-meaning people. He will offer you a small morsel of truth and mix it with a devilish lie and formulate a concoction that is able to send your soul to Hell, or at best, cause you to travel a road of misery and destruction!

CONCLUSION: My dear friends beware of these things – facebook, twitter and other media outlets are breeding grounds for this garbageBEWARE! On almost every corner among the shadows of half-truths, there are wolves in sheep skins (where do you think they got those sheep skins anyway)! Beware of those copying words from others and passing them off as their own! Beware of those peddling another Gospel which *isn't* another Gospel! Beware of those who dream dreams and pass them off as Divine Oracles of the Living God! BEWARE!