

False Prophets, False Apostles, and the False Church

I. The Church in the Earth

Matthew 16:18 (NIV®)

I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Ephesians 1:22–23 (NIV®)

²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,
²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Inherited Faith vs. Believing Church

II. Watch Out

Matthew 7:15–16 (NIV®)

¹⁵ “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.
¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”

Matthew 24:10–14 (NIV®)

¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:24–25 (NIV®)

²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. ²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time.

Romans 16:17–19 (NIV®)

¹⁷ I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.
¹⁹ Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but **I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.**

Galatians 1:6–8 (NIV®)

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NIV®)

¹ But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — ⁵ **having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.**

1 Corinthians 5:9–11 (NIV®)

⁹ I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰ not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹ But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a

brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

2 Thessalonians 3:14–15 (NIV®)

¹⁴ If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but **warn him as a brother**.

III. Saul, David, & Solomon

Saul

1 Samuel 15:17, 26 (NIV®)

¹⁷ Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. ... ²⁶ You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you as king over Israel!"

David

1 Chronicles 17:10–11, 16 (NIV®)

¹⁰ "I declare to you that the Lord will build a house for you: ¹¹ When your days are over and you go to be with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. — ¹⁶ Then King David went in and sat before the Lord...

Solomon

1 Kings 11:3–4 (NIV®)

³ He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. ⁴ As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

IV. A Lesson from Chronicles: The Korahites — Gatekeepers

1 Chronicles 9:19–29 (NASB95®)

¹⁹ Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his relatives of his father's house, the Korahites, *were* over the work of the service, **keepers of the thresholds of the tent; and their fathers had been over the camp of the Lord, keepers of the entrance.** ²⁰ Phinehas the son of Eleazar was ruler over them previously, *and* the Lord was with him. ²¹ Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was **gatekeeper of the entrance of the tent of meeting.** ²² All these who were chosen to be gatekeepers at the thresholds were 212. These were enrolled by genealogy in their villages, whom David and Samuel the seer appointed in their office of trust. ²³ So they and their sons had **charge of the gates of the house of the Lord**, *even* the house of the tent, as guards. ²⁴ The gatekeepers were on the four sides, to the east, west, north and south. ²⁵ Their relatives in their villages *were* to come in every seven days from time to time *to be* with them; ²⁶ for **the four chief gatekeepers who were Levites, were in an office of trust**, and were over the chambers and over the treasuries in the house of God. ²⁷ They spent the night around the house of God, because the watch was committed to them; and they *were* in charge of opening *it* morning by morning. ²⁸ Now some of them had charge of the utensils of service, for they counted them when they brought them in and when they took them out. ²⁹ Some of them also were appointed over the furniture and over all the utensils of the sanctuary and over the fine flour and the wine and the oil and the frankincense and the spices.