

Popular Preachers of Prosperity

BULLETIN: Since the beginning of this year, the atmosphere on the Gospel of Prosperity in American pulpits has changed. It is not as popular for one thing, to be prosperous during a time when so many Americans are suffering economically. Even many pastors have ceased to be prosperous in that their retirements along with the similar fate of so many Americans with 401Ks and stock, has decreased by as much as 40%. It is hard to preach a Gospel under these circumstances that the extent of your faith is measured by your prosperity when the preachers, evangelists, and the well-to-do businessmen, also church members, are hurting. You notice that the popular preachers of prosperity are quite. Did they lose their faith or just their voice?

Everyone wants to be rich and famous just like for years everyone wanted "To Win Friends and Influence People". Now this kind of all smiles PR has not only hit the churches of America, but become exceeding popular. Even as more than 61% of American church members, according to a recent poll, believe in the Gospel of Prosperity--that is, if they have enough faith they will be prosperous and healthy--so popular preachers have found this belief a key to support, popularity, and listeners.

While many churches continue to think they are hiding, the popular preachers and Bible teachers promote this hiding process that was first described by Jeremiah as the "Den of Thieves" and then quoted from Jeremiah by Jesus when He

cleansed to temple. "What are they hiding from?" has been asked. What they are hiding from is the eternal realities of their true shape in the sight of God, and what they are hiding behind is the American respect for religion and church. Any time a pastor, evangelist, or teacher--authorized by the Ascended Christ--attempts to practice the church administration of II Timothy 3:16,17--that is, of correction, reproof, and instruction in true righteousness--these church members of bad habits run to a new popular book for comfort, or a new TV evangelist, or in some few extreme cases to a new "jesus" or "Messiah" like currently in Northeast New Mexico or in Puerto Rico. And the Falling Away process does not discriminate based on sex as there seems to be as many women that are popular itching ears Bible teachers as there are men.

11-1: Correlation Between Hiding and Heaping Up.

In spite of the connection between the bad habits of II Timothy 3:1-9 and the heaping up of II Timothy 4:3,4--that is, one chapter immediately follows the other chapter in the Word of God of II Timothy--you may not be able easily to dot the I's and cross the T's that correlates the cover up in churches of the bad habits with the heaping up of popular and itching ears Bible teachers of the Falling Away. However, such a solid correlation is obvious to this concluding chapter where readers are urged to beware of popular Bible teachers and preachers, no matter what vintage.

So also as we have in the pages of this book become aware from the book of Jeremiah that by "Den of Thieves" God, Jesus, and Jeremiah meant that God's People were making the House of God a Hideout for Bad Habits, so also as God speaks directly again in Jeremiah 23:14 we see how the heaping up of itching ears Bible teachers and preachers promotes among Christians and in churches these bad habits of hiding. Jeremiah 23:14, and rather God through Jeremiah 23:14 refers to this positive reinforcement of bad behavior and attitudes among church members as "strengthen the hands of evil doers" (Jeremiah 23:14) It starts in 23:11 **{and you should read it for yourself in your own Bible to get the full impact}** with the prophets and priests accepted by the people, of course this would exclude Jeremiah although the only prophet of this time called and authorized by God, who are: (1) profane; (2) who practice the wickedness of bad habits in God's House; (3) they commit the adultery of preaching an unknown god; (4) they revel in half-truths and lies; and then given what these prophets and priests are, any time they open their mouth in public or private they encourage of "strengthen the hands of evil doers". The bad habits of II Timothy 3:1-8 are promoted among the people in word and deed, those bad habits which we have seen in this book to also be duplicated among

God's people of Jeremiah. And the bottom line of heaping up to hide is "that no one turns back from his wickedness" (Jeremiah 23:14).

11-2: Jeremiah was Opposed by the official prophets and priests.

1. Everyone, from the least to the greatest, of God's people of Jeremiah were given over to covetousness including the prophets and the priests (Jeremiah 8:10,11) who were dealing falsely.

In this context of Jeremiah 8:10,11, the prime accusation of God against the prophets and priests {**this is the official prophets and priests, not authorized by God prophets like Jeremiah**} might seem trivial to us today in that they were simply preaching a message of "Peace, peace, when there was no authorized and ordained peace from God. God had determined that the nation of Judah because of their lack of rightness would go into Babylonian Captivity under Nebuchadnezzar. God told Jeremiah this, and in turn Jeremiah had told the King, the princes, and all the people as he daily preached his unpopular message at the Temple gates.

2. Obviously the leadership to trust in the lying words of Jeremiah 7:4--"Do not trust in these lying words, saying, 'The Temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these'"--came from the official prophets and priests even as from the princes.

3. Even as Jeremiah was of Anathoth in Judah, and the son of a priest from Anathoth, so the men of Anathoth when they heard the temple message which Jeremiah preached threatened to kill Jeremiah, saying, "Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, lest you die by our hand" (Jeremiah 11:21). Certainly when Jesus later in NT times told the official religious leaders--the Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes, and priests--"which of the prophets did you not persecute", Jesus was referring to only Jeremiah of his day, not the official prophets and priests.

4. God said that both "prophet and priest are profane" (Jeremiah 21:11), and that in the very House of God, God Himself has witnessed their "wickedness". In the same context, God continues that even as He saw "folly in the prophets of Samaria" whereby they prophesied by Baal and caused God's people of Israel to "err" before God sent the northern kingdom of Israel into Assyrian Captivity, so God was seeing "a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem". These latter prophets like the former prophets were: (1) committing adultery {here the adultery was a lack of loyalty toward the only God and in favor of idols}; (2) walking in lies, like the message of peace when there was really no more ordained from God

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peace and likewise a failure to teach the real message of repentance from God; (3) they were "strengthening the hands of the evildoers so that no one turns back from his wickedness" (Jeremiah 23:14). This last folly of the official religious leaders must remind us of what popular, false, and itching ears Bible teachers and preachers do today as they comfort and encourage church members/Christians of bad habits.

5. God said in Jeremiah and had Jeremiah write down His own words that: (1) although these prophets ran, God did not send them; (2) God did not speak to them yet they prophesied; and (3) that if they really had stood in the counsel of God, causing God's people to hear His true words, then these same prophets would have turned the people from their evil ways, from the evil of their doings (Jeremiah 23:21,22).

6. All the people of that day devised plans against Jeremiah.

a. They hide behind the heaped up official prophet, priest, and wise man.

"...for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet." (Jeremiah 18:18a)

They made it clear about themselves and in the presence of Jeremiah that they would get their law from the heaped up priest, their counsel from the heaped up wise in the land which they would acknowledge to be wise, their word and instructions from God would come from the recognized and heaped up prophets.

b. They attacked Jeremiah with their tongues. (Jeremiah 18:18b)

Men, women, and children at the gates, in the Temple, in Anathoth and in Jerusalem verbally abused and attacked this prophet of God. Sometimes we wonder why Jeremiah did not call for an attack of a bear on them like Elijah; but while in the case of Elijah the verbal abuse on that Prophet of God was by a few boys, on Jeremiah and his message it was an attack by all. And truly God made it clear that He had something much worse in mind for the nation of Judah and the city of Jerusalem than a bear attack. Let alone, the calamities to shortly come on the people, there was the horror that the only Prophet of God was told not to pray for these people any more, just one indication that, except for a warning, God had turned His back on them.

7. All the people, the prophets and the priests sought to kill Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 26:7-9)

“So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking {his famous Temple Message} these words in the house of the LORD. Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, ‘You will surely die’.” (Jeremiah 26:7,8)

However, some of the princes {the government} of Judah intervened.

11-3: God's People Worse in Jeremiah's Day than the Falling Away.

Most serious Bible students aware of the obvious extensive warnings against a similar Falling Away in the book of Hebrews based on the bad example of God's people in the wilderness where all adults fell away from God and eternity except about 4 and the youth under 21 years of age. Indeed we come to know about the Falling Away in the wilderness as a Falling Away, and as a warning of the a bad example of bad behavior and attitudes of the original God's people from the book of Hebrews. Well, while we do not have any description from God about God's people of Jeremiah using the word “Falling Away”, nor do we have any such description from Jesus when He quotes the “Den of Thieves” from Jeremiah during the cleansing of the temple, God does definitely tell us in Jeremiah and in His own words that God's people of Jeremiah were worse than God's people in the wilderness.

“Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.” (Jeremiah 7:25,26)

Clearly “worse than their fathers” would be worse than the Falling Away in the wilderness as described in Hebrews.

1. The book of Hebrews is by far not the only good description based on the authority of God and His Word in the Bible. It was explained by God and Moses as it was happening in the books of Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy; you find it in the Psalms and many other passages of the Bible; and you see another good description of it here in this same seventh chapter of Jeremiah, in the words of

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Jeremiah 7:23,24 just before the "worse than their fathers" scripture quoted above.

a. With a short form of the often broken covenant with God, God reminds the people of Jeremiah, and by the way also our generation, that what He really commanded was to "Obey my voice", so that then God would be "your God" and "you shall be My People". (Jeremiah 7:23a)

b. Also God also commanded to "walk in all the ways" commanded in order that it might be well with the people {"well" or a living is what God guarantees rather than prosperity}. (Jeremiah 7:23b)

c. God's people in the wilderness, and in spite of might be added to all the works of God they saw in the wilderness, they (1) "did not obey" or (2) "incline their ear".

NOTE: By the way since we are down in this last chapter as in the last two previous chapters down to the nitty gritty of the message of the book, with efforts to clarify the distinctions between false gods and idols and the real God and worship, between seeking first the rightness of God and God Himself over the lusting first after other things, you must be asked personally then (1) do you obey God, and (2) do you incline your ear to God. Granted it is your own solution as to how you will obey and how you will listen to God.

d. They "followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts" (7:24a); and does that not remind you of that Falling Away process in II Timothy 4:3, 4 which begins with intolerance toward sound doctrine--what you might call the not obeying and listening process of c.; then continues with the motivation of "wants" to determine the kind of itching ears Bible teachers that they heap up. About the only concept and word that Paul does not use is "their evil hearts", but he has done a good job of describing that in the bad habits and attitudes of II Timothy 3:1-8 before it.

e. They "went backwards and not forward". (7:24b) Here and in similar scriptures is where the famous concept and word "backsliders" has come from, although unfortunately the thoroughness of the ALL SCRIPTURE, partly for reasons of popularity, has not been clarified to the extent of the awesome possibility of a majority of God's people can and will actually be lost.

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2. Again after the Falling Away description of the original God's people, God comes back in Jeremiah 7:26,27 to how Jeremiah's people {those of Jerusalem and Judah just before Babylonian Captivity} were like and worse God's people.

a. They also did not obey God or incline their ear to God. {You know it is not nearly so bad to disobey God out of ignorance if you are really trying hard to listen to God.}

b. God's people of Jeremiah "stiffened their neck".

c. They did worse than their forefathers of God's people in the wilderness. And since you know clearly from Hebrews that "none of these will enter into the rest of God"--in other words they can not and will be saved--what do you think is the fate of God's people in the day of Jeremiah except eternal wrath and destruction. {Yes, like in the time of Elijah and King Ahab, surely there were at least 7000 in the whole nation of Judah who had not bowed the knee to Baal. In fact we know from Daniel and Ezekiel, prophets of the actual Babylonian Captivity under Nebuchadnezzar, that Daniel and others of the carried away from Jerusalem continued to listen to and obey God. And it would seem as advocated in the commentary on Revelation in the LEARN CHRIST commentary, "Christ for Individuals", that God has in every generation His own seven thousand; yet it is scary to most individuals to think that of all the Christians and church members in America, that might be only 7000 that survive.}

d. Jeremiah, when you speak all these words from Me, God says in Jeremiah 7:27, "they will not obey you".

e. "You will call to them", also, "but they will not answer you." Pertinent to the prime content of this chapter, the people also like people today and in the Falling Away were listening to the official prophets and priests, and they were heaping up in their own minds and organizations those itching ears Bible teachers. Turning their backs on the real Bible teachers and preachers, then and now, is and was part of the "heaping up" process; also answering only the itching ears and popular and official teachers, refusing simultaneously or before to answer the call from sound Bible teachers and preachers.

NOTE: By the way, while there are only a few Writing Prophets of the Bible, there were many other Prophets, good and bad. "prophet" in the Old Testament was simply a man called and sent by God to His people and others

to present the current message from God. By far most of the references to prophets in the New Testament are only to the Writing Prophets that God authorized to record revelations for the Bible. And you can easily see one reason for this as you come to see how often as here in Jeremiah that the prophets and priests got out of sync with God the same time as the people. They actually preached the opposite message that God was delivering to men like Jeremiah, Amos, and Joel; and to keep their own status and official position among the people, they naturally opposed and sought to destroy the real Prophet of God.

11-4: No Authorized Popular Preacher during the Falling Away.

And here "preacher" is being used for Bible teacher also as Bible teaching and preaching can hardly be separated. And even as when Christ did authorize, after His Ascension, certain men to be pastors and teachers, so, man-made teachers and preachers of the unauthorized vintage have come out of like-minded itching ears Bible teachers, pastors, and evangelists since the end of the Billy Graham popularity. {One way to mark the beginning of the Falling Away is to remember when Billy Graham became much less popular, say about the 60's.}

The very nature of the Falling Away as a majority movement among Christians/ church members prohibits popular preachers and popular teachers that are authorized by Christ. Even as we are told in Ephesians 4:8-11 that the Ascended Christ gave only authorized pastors, teachers, and evangelists, so He does not choose and authorize popular pastors, teachers, and evangelists during the Falling Away when He Himself as identified that period of history as when "because sin will abound the love of many will wax cold". (Matthew 24:12) Now unauthorized by Christ preachers and teachers can be popular among this "many" who have waxed cold; but not wholesale popular among all church members during the Falling Away, and definitely not among those church member/ Christians who did not wax cold and fall away.

1. Like the official prophets and priests of Jeremiah, you can not listen to these popular preachers and teachers during this time of the Falling Away, for they like those of Jeremiah prophesy {**I Corinthians 14 word for preaching and teaching**}: (1) such as to make you worthless; (2) speak a vision of their own heart (Jeremiah 23:16); and (3) the vision as they falsely claim is not "from the mouth of the LORD".

2. The religious officials say "no evil shall come upon you." (Jeremiah 23:17)

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These officials of Jeremiah were continually saying to God's people that "despised me" (Jeremiah 23:17), God says, "You shall have peace."

3. About the only difference between the official and unauthorized prophets of Jeremiah and those today is that while the prophets of Jeremiah, according to God in Jeremiah 23:25 prophesied with "I have dreamed, I have dreamed", the popular prophesies today start with an announcement of such special revelations with words like "God told me" or "God said to me" or "God gave me a word".

a. "How Long" God pleads (Jeremiah 23:26-40) will these dreams be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies.

b. They are "prophets of the deceit of their own heart" (23:26).

c. These prophets try to get God's people to forget the name of God when they tell their neighbors these dreams.

4. These popular and extra-biblical special revelations of prophesy today are more like the dreams of the official prophets and priests of Jeremiah than of the Word of God. (Jeremiah 23:28-40)

a. Let these that prophesy either tell a dream that they had or speak "My Word" already recorded in the Bible. (23:28)

b. These dreams and dreamers are like the "chaff to the wheat" (23:28,29), where the wheat is the from the Word of God like a fire and like a hammer.

c. God says He is against every prophets who steals God's words from his neighbor. (23:30).

d. God says He is against the prophets "who use their tongues and say, 'He says". (23:31). Alas, alas be careful when you say God says, God says, God told me when you can not back it up with what is already recorded in the Word of God of 66 books.

e. God says that even as He is against those who prophesy these false dreams, causing His own people to err by their lies and recklessness {a good Bible description of many messages we hear today on TV, reckless}; that God did not send them nor did God command them to prophesy; and furthermore there is no

way that they or their messages from dreams can "profit this people at all". (Jeremiah 23:32)

11-5: To Unchurched and Churched About the Churched.

While most popular preaching and books today are about the unchurched and addressed to the churched, this book is about the churched. The way of popular preachers to get an "Amen" is to talk about the unchurched and lost, since only churched and supposed Christians are in their congregation. It is always easier to preach and teach about those not present, and receive congregational support, than to preach and teach about those already present in the church. As you suspected this book largely about the unchurched is addressed TO both the churched and unchurched. It is only fair play that preachers can now talk about the human frailties and bad habits of their church members, and in fact must in order to do the church administration work of reproof and correction; since for years at Southwestern Seminary books like "The Human Frailties of the Pastor" have been studied.

1. Such attempts at this church administration of correction and reproof, much less sound doctrine and instruction in true righteousness, as well as to fill the "ALL SCRIPTURE" sink hole, is seldom practiced by the popular because it is not profitable.
2. If you are going to Biblical identify the "false" in false prophets and false and itching ears Bible teachers and preachers today, you must face up to who is making a profit out of you and how large is that profit.
3. You must be able to recognize where the dreams of these itching and false prophesies are serving, like in Jeremiah's day of detrimental official prophets and priests, to subtly "strengthen the hands of the evil doers" (Jeremiah 23:14) by positive reinforcement of the bad habits and follies of "wickedness".

11-6: Profit Correction on Prophecy (Speaking in the Assembly) in I Cor 14.

Few places in Scripture have we during the last 20 years seen the need for "reproof" and "correction" on ALL SCRIPTURE like we now see in the status quo as I Corinthians 14 is understood and practiced. While many give lip service and some honor to I Corinthians 14, as the charismatic and special revelations movement in American Christianity has come to dominate, the real meaning and message of this famous chapter has been ignored. Sometimes one would think that the charismatic movement with the rising tide of the mystery of lawlessness that started in Paul's day, was the twin movement that would

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dominate American churches and religion in favor of the Falling Away. Although at first to be considered strange, it should also be recalled that even Satan was transformed into an angel of light; should it therefore be considered strange that this charismatic movement, so anti-Scripture to I Corinthians 14, should be a prime instrument in the ushering in of the inevitable Falling Away.

The meaning of "prophecy" in Jeremiah and I Corinthians is to "publicly expound". Somehow prophecy and prophet has become confused with predictions of the future; and while all the Prophets like Jeremiah, and we should be aware of that by now, had predictions of the future on what God was going to do, the primary message of the Prophet was on contemporary problems and issues. For example, Jeremiah primarily preached on the bad habits of God's people.

1. I Corinthians 14:3 has forever established the purpose of "prophecy" in a local church or in part of the total assembly of Christ. **{Some of these TV and conference speakers think they can ignore I Corinthians 14 as they are not speaking in a local church, but even as "where two or three or gathered together in the name of Christ" as Jesus taught, so also it is an Assembly in the nature of "My Assembly" when Christians gather for such Bible studies.}**

a. The purpose of public expounded in any assembly of Christ is to: (1) edify, (2) exhort, and (3) comfort. (I Corinthians 14:3) Any time or place of an assembly in the name of Christ, that you find public speaking not to be consistent with the building up of Christians according to the Word of God, any time you find it inconsistent with the exhortations of the Word of God no matter what special revelations are claimed, and any time you find it to be a false comfort and false security as compared to what the Word of God as it exists now, that is as the substance of "the faith once for all delivered to the saints", it is NOT PROPHECY! If the prophecy is obvious for personal status and profit; if it smells like self-edification, if it sounds like self-edification for profit and status, and if it looks like self-edification for status and profit, no matter how large the crowd--they could not be larger than all of God's people in Jeremiah nor larger than all God's people in the Falling Away in the wilderness--then it is self-edification.

b. The opposite of this kind of speaking in the church **{prophecy}**, according to I Corinthians 14:4, is to edify self. This applies to an individual worshipper who gets all involved in arm waving and self-expressions of joy as well as to the public speaker. Speaking in a tongue, like an unknown tongue or another language, is just one way that a worshipper or speaker can disrupt worship by favoring self-edification over edification of the assembly. That is the real subject of I

Corinthians 14 even though it has been perverted and misused, sorely in need of reproof and correction. And here is a stark example of where a little scripture, say one or two verses are utilized out of the sink hole of ALL SCRIPTURE, to use and pervert the total gist. The gist is described in I Corinthians 14:1: (1) Your prophesy or speaking publicly in the church should first come from a pursuit of love, the love Christ and God without the waxing cold of the sin and Falling Away, not from the self-love of the bad habits of church members; (2) Save your speaking to God, like in tongue speaking, for private prayers and remember that in public prophesy your audience is other men {**granted God hears if you really have something to say, but prophesy is TO listeners, not God**}; and (3) while your spirit can communicate to God in any known or unknown God in private prayer, it is not a matter for speaking in public exposition, in short not prophesy. {**Why not allow God to define like He does in I Corinthians 14 what kind of speaking that He desires publicly in His own House.**}

NOTE: Perhaps one of the previously unmentioned ways that we make Houses of God a "Hideout for Bad Habits" is by disguising our prophesies under the bad habit of self-edification. However, we do recall that this was also the problem of the "Den of Thieves" of Jeremiah, you sought to build up themselves as secure, right, and comfortable by shouting charismatically "The temple of God, the temple of God, the temple of God are these". Also by speaking publicly the big lie.

2. The bottom line of I Corinthians 14, and many never make the connection or allow themselves to be reprov'd or corrected on the matter, at the same time deceiving themselves that they have the profitability of doctrine and instruction in righteousness on this portion of ALL SCRIPTURE, is to be found in a proper attitude toward the Word of God as given in I Corinthians 14:36, the gist of which is "did the Word of God come to you only, or did the Word of God come out of you?" You see this kind of forbidden by ALL SCRIPTURE attitude is what creates for self-edification, profit, and status all these special revelations where God told such a public expounder something that He did not tell others.

a. If someone things himself "to be prophet or spiritual", let him or her first acknowledge that the things which Paul spoke and wrote are words from God. Paul was among the Apostles chosen, like the Prophets of the Old Testament, to write Scriptures; Peter testified to Paul that He wrote in his epistles scriptures in the same category as the "prophesies" of the Prophets, and that

some of them were both hard to understand, and how some in that day, and by the way in this day and time, would wrest them to their own destruction. (I Corinthians 14:37,38) You have two choices when you read I Corinthians 14 and you practice public exposition: (1) to remain ignorant with reproof and correction, and perhaps also without any real sound doctrine and sound instruction in righteousness; or (2) to acknowledge the clear teachings, attitude, and practices of I Corinthians 14 as Word of God, unchanged and unaltered by modern times and by any claims at special revelation.

b. "Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak in the church." **{for any assembly in the name of Christ}** (I Corinthians 14:34) I would not even try to explain why so many confusions in Christ related assembly are caused by women; however since the whole gist of this chapter is to deal with confusions in assembly and worship, then we must just accept it as so. For example, above, we saw another confusion in worship and assembly caused by special revelations which ignore the Christian community understanding and history of the faith once for all delivered to the saints in the Word of God.

3. Sorry Joyce, Paula, Beth, and other "women of faith", the Word of God did not come out of you nor was it delivered to you only; and your public silence is required in any assembly of Christ just as is the same Word of God requirement on any member that enters any church for worship. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.** And what you will generally find in such conferences that there is much personal profit making, much self-edification of profit and status, and a lot of subtle special revelations. And generally the conference attendees have gone in order to secure some additional Christian status in their own family, church, or the community at large. It is that same old story of popularity, heaping up, and hiding. Look closely and you will find that these forbidden women public speakers, just like Osteen and Warren "strengthen" listeners in their evil way, like in Jeremiah, most generally by providing substitutes for the real God, real Christ, and real Christian way of life, which in reality are the creation of idols.

NOTE: By the way on the popularity surface, you may doubt that these ladies have done any thing wrong, especially on the forbidden habits of II Timothy 3:1-9; but think again! Their pride, boasting, self-love, arrogance, love of money, without self-control, headstrong, haughty--especially when you consider that they have made the deliberate choice in the name of the American feminist movement to ignore the **ALL SCRIPTURE** of I Corinthians 14:34--that is all; and perhaps even the slanderers, despiser of good, and lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

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4. Greater in the eyes of God is the Prophet who prophesies than the Prophet who speaks in a tongue. (I Corinthians 14:5) And never forget that while it is possible to speak to God so emotionally, and dominated by the spirit, that language can lose meaning, and that this is an "unknown tongue", what the Apostles spoke on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension was known languages. Really, if you want to be more New Testament then invite a missionary to speak to your church or conference in the language of the people where he is a missionary! You might say, well most of us would not understand it, so how would we prophet from the message? Yes, exactly, all which is done in the church or other assembly of Christ is to be done with "understanding" whether it is prophesy, music, praise, or prayer. Otherwise it is not public, it is private and a violation of I Corinthians 14 in spirit and in truth!

5. Along with this charismatic movement which has confused worship, has between within worship services a new Babel, which confused and scattered all the people of the world, of many sounds and languages. Like taught in I Corinthians 14:7-11, this is a confusion in worship and assembly of (1) lack of distinction, and (2) lack of understanding. You see it in the praise music, you see in the self-expressions and edifications of Attenders and speaker, and you see in the simplicity (without distinction) and lack of understanding of those who claim to prophesy. And we have let them get away with it out of the American respect for religion and churches and religious conferences supposedly in the name of Christ, although much of that comes from not even choosing to think about it or acknowledge it like the respect given to some men and women after their death that was not afforded them previously.

6. Clearly by I Corinthians 14:6 the prophesy that edifies, exhorts, and comforts is by: (1) revelation from an Apostle or Prophet and therefore only as written in the Bible of the authorized Apostles and Prophets; (2) by knowledge based on that Bible, not special revelations; (3) by real prophesying that edifies, exhorts, and comforts with distinct sounds and understanding; and (4) by the teaching of sound doctrine, instruction in righteousness based on the ALL SCRIPTURE which we already have as well as reproof and correction which closes the two gaps, church administration and Christian living, of II Timothy 3:16,17 and the sink hole where much of the ALL has been lost or ignored, even as has I Corinthians 14.

7. Sing with the spirit and understanding; pray with the spirit and understanding; and speak {**prophesy**} in any church or assembly of Christ with spirit and understanding. (I Corinthians 14:15) If you give some Attenders a blessing

that they do not understand, it will have trouble being a blessing to them; although you may profit for feeding your own ego. Obviously this promotion of edification of the congregation over confusion of the congregation applies to music of distinct, beautiful, and quite sound as well as of praise, prophesy, and prayer. Yet what do we find in our contemporary churches and conferences: instead of correction and reproof in the direction of a lack of confusion, we find correction and reproof in the direction of noise in worship, a lack of understanding with the emotion of spirit, and confusing preaching and teaching to be consistent with the rest.

11-7: Popularity of the "Peace" Message.

It is foolish to prophesy "Peace, peace" today, even as in Jeremiah, when your world is about to be destroyed. All the official prophets and priests of Jeremiah were preaching a Gospel of Peace and Prosperity to the extent that God said, "Don't talk about an oracle of God anymore". You prophets and priests the only way an oracle of God should come from your lips is when you ask one another, "What did Yahweh say?" or "What did Yahweh answer?" (Jeremiah 23:34-37) The equivalent message today to popular preachers would be: Don't talk about special revelations, for they are like dreams, just say between yourselves "What is already written in the complete Bible of revelations", or "What does the existing Word of God say". Even a popular preacher as good as J.D. Jakes said last Sunday that Martha has a "revelation". No, Martha had an illumination of existing revelations from Jesus and the Apostles; and this is not trivia, for to claim revelations by and from anyone beside Jesus, the Apostles, and Prophets is heresy against the faith once for all delivered to the saints and against the written Word of God. Like the Mormons who boast of 4 Bibles and the Catholics who establish a Vatican document in authority over the Bible, it is adding to and taking away from the Bible. Or as in the recent history of the Pentecostals, once let loose by Oral Roberts, then like the prophets and priests of Jeremiah live off the messages of fellow popular preachers, generating based on this popular and recent evolution new terminology, new concepts, and new special revelations. {Most often the purpose of these special oracles or revelations, like the teachings of Paul and other Apostles on false prophets, are: (1) for personal profit; and (2) for the status of making disciples to themselves, alias popularity.

“Therefore behold, I am against the prophets,’ says the LORD, ‘who steal My words every one from his neighbor.’” (Jeremiah 23:30)

And here I must give some credit to the author of the New International Commentary on Jeremiah, J.A. Thompson, who translates Jeremiah 23:31 as "they oracle an oracle."

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“The meaning is that the message of the false prophets originated from themselves and was presented in their own words with something of a flourish as though it were a word from Yahweh.”

1. The ultimate false message of the popular prophets and priests of Jeremiah was that they were preaching a message of peace and security when God had already told Judah and Israel that they would go into Captivity. How are popular preachers today like the prophets and priests of Jeremiah?

(1). They promote a Gospel of Prosperity, Health, and Peace which enforces **{strengthens the wicked, to use some words from Jeremiah}** the loyalty of Americans to give a priority to things and status over God and righteousness. What truly made God mad in the messages of Jeremiah is split loyalty. And while many Christians and church members today enamored with the Gospel of Prosperity and idols of material things and seeking have not seen the real message of Jesus in “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you”, any time the priority is reversed by a loyalty for any of these things of living and prosperity, it is an idol of split loyalty for God.

(2). They strengthen the wicked of bad habits in their bad ways with this Gospel of Prosperity **{by the way, believed by over 60% of American Christians}**, to ignore that God chastises those that really belong to him. What happens with the Gospel of Prosperity is that the 10% of Americans who spend over 50% of the money are promoted as the good examples of God's children when in reality, according to Hebrews 11 on the chastisement of God, they are bastard children; and whatever you read from the chastisement of Hebrews 11 and the rest of the Bible, you must see among the ways God's has chastised is related to health, prosperity, things, and status, also wealth and comfort.

(3). They provide a comfort zone in Christian lives and in the house of God which tends to overlook that the world is rapidly coming to an end. Like the man who built his house on the sand, in the parable from Jesus, they provide an emphasis on things and status and comfort of this world, building semi-permanent social, materialistic, and routine structures that can not survive as this old earth and old heavens become the new earth and new heavens. Often today rather than the non-believers promoting the “status-quo” of Peter where “all things continue the same from the beginning”, it is the popular preachers with their itching ears listeners that are promoting the security and assumption

that Peace will go on forever; while God has foretold and designed this old world for ultimate destruction.

2. Seldom do you hear the popular preachers speak of an imminence of the falling away, of increased calamities from God, and of Peters "both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up." (I Peter 3:10) Granted that even in the days of Paul, he could write "the whole Creation groaneth until now"; and that like a woman in childbirth there will be increased travail up to the point of delivery from the old earth and Age to the new earth and Age, it should be apparent from the increased calamities in the U.S. since 9/11 or tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, drought, etc that the groaning and travail of this old earth is about to usher in a New Earth and a New Age.

Like in Jeremiah, these are evil times not good times; and although we tend to ignore it, also like God's people of Jeremiah, history is not the same as it use to be. America is not the same; the world is not the same; the SBC is not the same; the good old gospel is not the same; and our churches are not the same. There are several ways that God through Jeremiah tries to describe how the status quo of the nation and the world had changed so that Peace was no longer to be held onto or preached by popular prophets. Certainly God's people could no longer find peace, security, and comfort in the House of God as they tried to hide there!

(1). Now history is different from the history of the past in that a repeated sequence of calamities in the place of blesses have come upon the land.

"Why does the land perish and burn up like a wilderness, so that no one can pass through?" (Jeremiah 9:12b)

Nothing new, the optimistic of misty optics and the popular prophets and priests say: we have been there and done this before. However, look closely and you will find that there is something much more different in intensity and lack of blessing than it has ever been in history. Even as now our scientists and politicians are starting to face up to our destruction of planet earth, so we are increasing becoming aware that the entropy predicted by physicists, where the order of the universe runs down, is much closer than predicted. Also that God holds His own people in the land responsible for the condition of the people in the land and for the calamities. Prayers are not effective and not be heard. The primary reason is because the giant shadow over the many prayers of churches and church people blocks the effectivity of these prayers, and that giant shadow is

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the bad habits of God's people that they are hiding in the churches, bad habits that are quickly without adequate sink hole filling of ALL SCRIPTURE and the two gaps of church administration and Christian living are about to pass into a complete fulfillment of the Falling Away.

(2). God's people of the Houses of God look for and seek after peace, security, and comfort in the House of God and in the land; and the popular preachers encourage them with false message of a Gospel of Peace, Prosperity, and Health, but "no good came and for a time of health, and there was trouble" (Jeremiah 8:15) While many of these false and official and popular prophets try to make over what is in reality happening with words to tell you what is happening quite different from what you see, America is started to get the real picture. It is much like the lady who told us she was a worship leader and continued in our presence to take the name of God in vain. There is an obvious contradiction there between what is professed or claimed and what is real, between image and reality, between the dreams of prophesy and the truth.

(3). What God sees in these churches of hideouts and in the land where all the official prophets and priests are touting peace and prosperity is a "conspiracy of popularity": "And the LORD said to me, 'A conspiracy has been found among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem'". (Jeremiah 11:9-11)

The people of the land have changed for the worse, "they have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers" {of the Falling Away in the wilderness} in that they refuse to listen and heed the words of God. The people have gone after other gods and idols to serve them. God's people have broken the agreement of the covenant that has existed between God and the people, and that is a drastic change in history.

(4). God will bring calamity on the land, that is another change in history; and God will not listen to their prayers, that is definitely a change in the good old religion that Americans have known or think they have known.

"Therefore thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will surely bring calamity on them which they will not be able to escape {no more hiding in the House of God}; and though they cry out to Me, I will not listen to them.'" (Jeremiah 11:11)

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Really, how long before you wake up Christians and church members, for last night on 60 minutes in the program about Joel Osteen, you witnessed the "Perfect Popular Preacher" for the following away, also the perfect congregation of 10,000 people with a TV audience of 70 million viewers. Brother and sister, that is about as worldly as you can get, and the ministry of the Lakewood Church and Osteen has drawn recognition from even some Seminary professors as devoid of Bible and theology. What you are witnessing in this church and ministry is a complete fulfillment of what some said 40 years ago, "if you stand for nothing, you fall for anything". On the positive side as the interviewer for 60 minutes graciously referenced other ministers and teachers as saying, a no doctrine message of "God is nice, you are nice, I am nice, and you should go out and be nice." Well, wake up and contrast this with People Profitability (II Timothy 3:16,17) from the Scripture, where people hear sound doctrine rescued, where there is "reproof, correction, and instruction in rightness", compare this message of niceness preached while members and viewer struggle and die striving to live with a gospel of prosperity, that if you show enough faith you will be prosperous and healthy-- what a wrong to do to many members as has been witnessed by others in Houston--this niceness which ignored that Preaching according to the Bible (II Timothy 4:2) is to include "reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine". "For the time" has actually come for this 10 thousand and 70 million "when they will not endure sound doctrine"; in fact they are getting exactly what they want like II Timothy 4:3 says, intolerance toward sound doctrine "according to their own desires", since this support and encouragement, yes wholesale buying of the message, is a grassroots movement of "itching ears", itching ears preacher and itching ears people. It is the people of Houston, Lakewood in particular, that did this "heaping up" of niceness and a lack of sound doctrine, this grassroots movement where "their ears {have} turned away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables" {of niceness, prosperity, things, and health}; and the sad fact is that neither the preacher nor the people recognize that they have fulfilled the ultimate description of the Falling Away of II Timothy 4:3,4. The sins and bad habits that brought this 10 thousand and 70 million to this ultimate of nice fables has not been and is not apparent, covered up by the more obvious popular reality that 70.1 million believe it and participate {you know, millions of Frenchman could not be wrong as the old saying goes}. It is much like we in the kingdom have known for over 50 years and in faith healing meetings, where what you see and hear about is a few that seemed to be miraculously healed, hardly once hearing of the many lives destroyed in the meetings because of their lack of faith, or destroyed later. The cover up process that started and developed then has been perfected at Lakewood Church. And if you do not see in this, the ultimate of the Falling Away, and the need to rescue the sound doctrine of the

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Bible, from this vast number of Americans who have made Lakewood a hideout for ignoring the Bible, then you also must be too far gone to tell the difference between sound doctrine and fables.