

Wisdom Booklet 50



WISDOM QUIZ

Matthew 7:15

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."



How well do you understand the concept of false prophets?

True/False

- 1** All false prophets are non-Christians. ☐ ☒
(Read II Peter 2:1.)

• Just as Peter warned that there would be false teachers who would deny the Lord that bought them, so Paul predicted that after his death, false prophets would rise up from his followers and take away disciples for their own purposes.

A false prophet can be easily detected by a mature Christian. ☐ ☒
(See Matthew 24:24.)

- 2** It is God's design that there be no false prophets among His people. ☒ ☐
(Read Deuteronomy 13:1-3.)

• It is God's design to test the love and loyalty of His people. If we reject His truth, we will fall prey to the voice of the false prophet. Similarly, if non-Christians reject God's truth, God will send them a strong delusion and they will believe the lie. (See II Thessalonians 2:10.) In this way, false prophets are to the Church what opportunistic bacteria are to the body. (See Jeremiah 5:31.)

Because a false prophet is a committed fool, it is never wise to reprove one. ☐ ☒
(See Acts 13:6-12.)

- 3** A false prophet is ultimately destroyed by those who expose his error. ☐ ☒
(Read II Peter 2:12.)

• Because the false prophet is motivated by lust and greed, his own corruption will destroy him. God promises to destroy false prophets who deceive His people. (See Ezekiel 14:9.)

Once a person hears the truth, he is unlikely to be deceived by a false prophet. ☐ ☒

(See II Thessalonians 2:9-11.)

- 4** God commands Christians to analyze the message of a false prophet to identify how it is unscriptural. ☒ ☐
(Read I John 4:1.)

• Christians are to try the spirit of a prophet. Whatever is not of God should be immediately rejected. Further listening to false teachers is dangerous and contrary to Scripture. Their words will destroy like a cancer. (See II Timothy 2:17.)

A false prophet should expect strong reaction to his error. ☒ ☐
(See Luke 6:26.)

Total Correct 5

Sound the Battle Cry

William F. Sherwin

William F. Sherwin



1. Sound the bat-tle cry! See! the foe is nigh! Raise the standard high For the Lord:
2. Strong to meet the foe, Marching on we go, While our cause we know, Must pre-vail;
3. O Thou God of all, Hear us when we call, Help us one and all By Thy grace;



Gird your arm-or on, Stand firm ev-ery one; Rest your cause upon His ho-ly word.
Shield and banner bright Gleaming in the light; Battling for the right, We ne'er can fail.
When the battle's done, And the victory won, May we wear the crown Be-fore Thy face.

REFRAIN



Rouse, then, sol-diers! Ral-ly round the banner! Read-y, stead-y, Pass the word a-long;



Onward, forward, Shout a-loud, ho-san-na! Christ is Captain Of the mighty throng! AMEN.

WISDOM WORKSHEET ON MATTHEW 7:15



"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."



Wolves and false prophets are both rapacious. *Rapacious* describes someone or something that "takes by force; is given to plunder; seizes by violence." A rapacious animal is one that subsists by preying on other animals.

False prophets are extremely dangerous. Externally they seem proper; however, their inward motives make them rapacious in nature as seen in Ezekiel 22:27:

"Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain."

In Scripture it is a very serious thing to go against the word of one of God's prophets. Because the motives of false prophets are not visible, God gave very specific instructions in Scripture on how to recognize them:

"... Whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. . . ."

"When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him" (Deuteronomy 18:19, 22).

Linguistics

Languages,
Grammar, Vocabulary,
Communication



BEWARE

Greek: προσέχω (praw-SEH-ko)

DEFINITION: To hold the mind towards; to pay attention to; to give heed to; to guard oneself against.

FALSE PROPHETS

Greek: ψευδοπροφήτης

(soo-daw-praw-FAY-tace)

DEFINITION: A spurious prophet. (i.e., an impostor; one who utters falsehoods under the pretense of speaking the truth)

Do Resource A.

COME

Greek: ἔρχομαι (ER-kaw-my)

DEFINITION: To come or go; to come before; to make an appearance; to be set; to resort to.

SHEEP

Greek: πρόβατον (PRAW-bah-tawn)

DEFINITION: πρό (before) + βαίνο (to walk) — one who is led. Any small, tame animal that grazes (vs. cows, etc.). N.T. word almost always denotes sheep.

CLOTHING

Greek: ἔνδυμα (EN-doo-mah)

DEFINITION: Apparel (especially the outer garment or cloak); figuratively, with a lamb-like exterior.

INWARDLY

Greek: ἔσωθεν (EH-so-then)

DEFINITION: From the inside; inward; that which is on the inside; within.

Do Resource B.

RAVENING

Greek: ἄρπαξ (HAR-pax)

DEFINITION: Rapacious; ravening; extorting (money as the goal).

WOLVES

Greek: λύκος (LOO-koss)

DEFINITION: Wolf—from *whitish hair*. Figuratively applied to greedy, destructive, rapacious men.

History

Archaeology,
Geography, Prophecy,
Music, Art, Literature



How did history confirm the error of a false prophet?

Charles Taze Russell claimed to have special understanding from the Bible in setting 1878 as the exact date of Christ's return. When history proved him wrong, many disillusioned followers left his cult.

Undaunted by this failure, Russell simply set a new date of 1881. He also established the *Watchtower* magazine to convince people to sell



Charles Taze Russell
1852–1916

their possessions to watch for Christ's return.

When history again confirmed that he was a false prophet, he redirected his focus to the battle of Armageddon, which he prophesied would take place in 1914.

Those whom he deceived continue to propagate his teachings under the name of Jehovah's Witnesses.

How did a false prophet use "history" to gain credibility?

Joseph Smith claimed that an angel told him where to find golden plates of the history of God's people in North America.

This fraudulent "discovery" became the basis of Mormonism and the license to indulge in many evil practices.



Joseph Smith
1805–1844

Do Resource C.

Science

Chemistry, Biology,
Astronomy, Geology,
Physics, Mathematics



How does the phenomena of imprinting in the world of nature relate to false prophets?

Every animal has a need to identify with something or someone to which it can look for protection and leadership. This process is called "imprinting."

Imprinting differs from bonding. Bonding occurs immediately following birth, whereas imprinting takes place several days or weeks later.

Sheep will naturally be imprinted to the leadership within the flock. However, sheep can also make a willful choice to follow a shepherd.

It is through the sound of the shepherd's voice that imprinting takes place. Once imprinted, sheep will follow the shepherd wherever he goes. Jesus said, "... The sheep

follow him [the shepherd]; for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers" (John 10:4-5).



Do Resource D.

How do "hidden persuaders" in business manipulate buyers?

Supermarket researchers use color, music, and sequence of products to slow down the eye-blink rate, which increases customer susceptibility to overspending.

Some of the most beguiling product sequences are: bakery, produce, pet foods, grains, sauces, cleaning supplies, frozen foods, meat, and dairy.

Do Resource E.

Law

Government,
Economics, Logic



How have ministers of God in government reproved false prophets?

Because America was founded on Biblical principles, the court system originally reflected Biblical standards of morality.

Cult leaders who propagated false teachings in order to justify the indulgence of greed and lust were brought to justice by federal lawmakers.

One example is in the matter of plural marriages.

God established one-partner marriage at Creation. He reaffirmed this standard in Matthew 19 and in the requirement of church leaders' being the husbands of one wife. (See 1 Timothy 3:2.)



Emma Smith was named in one of her husband's "revelations" on plural marriages. She was told that if she did not accept all of his other wives, she would go to hell.

Joseph Smith excused his own moral failures by the teaching of plural marriage.

When Utah requested statehood between 1849 and 1895, Congress refused to grant it because of the practice of polygamy.

In 1862, Congress passed a law forbidding polygamy.

Federal troops were sent into the territory of Utah to arrest hundreds of Mormons who violated this law.

Twenty-eight years later, the Mormon church finally complied with the federal law and changed its teaching of polygamy. Utah was admitted to the Union in 1896.

Do Resource F.

Medicine

Health,
Nutrition, Behavior,
Counseling



How do tumor markers illustrate the need to test all prophets?

Tumor markers are chemical by-products of cancer cells. They are present in the blood long before the tumor is identifiable by X rays.

The actual presence or location of tumors cannot be detected by any of our present procedures any earlier than 1500 days (four years) from the inception of cancer.



Normal cells (above). Cancer cells (beneath).

By this time the cancer cell has gone through thirty doublings. The actual number of cells after thirty doublings is 100,000,000 (one hundred million), or ten to the eighth power (10^8).

By the time a tumor has cells numbering 10^7 , it is beyond the control of the body's immune system.

When the tumor is first identifiable at 10^8 , the body is already totally overwhelmed, and radical intervention may be required to stop its spread. When cancer reaches 10^{12} , death occurs.

Outside intervention is always painful and damaging to the whole body. Yet the alternative is death.

Thus, the wisest course in handling cancer is strengthening the immune system so it can deal with the cancer cells before they multiply to 10^8 .

One of the physical benefits of regular fasting is the strengthening of the immune system.

Similarly, God has called the Church to times of fasting and has commanded each Christian to discern the spirit of every teacher in the church, even before his fruit is manifested.

Do Resource G.



How many of these questions can you answer *before* studying the Resources?

WHAT WORDS DESCRIBE A "WOLF"?



- How can a false prophet be recognized?2715
- How is a false prophet pernicious?2715
- How is a false prophet avaricious?2716
- How does prurience apply to false prophets?2717
- How are false prophets intractable?2718

HOW SHOULD "WOLVES" BE TREATED?



- What does προσέχω teach us about the nature of false prophets? ...2723
- What are the motives of false prophets?2724
- What are the false prophets' methods?2725
- What is the importance of δοκιμάζω in dealing with false prophets?2726

HOW DOES MORALITY SHAPE THEOLOGY?



- Why was Joseph Smith tarred and feathered?2729
- Why is it destructive to even read what false prophets have written? ..2731
- How do false prophets deceptively manipulate Scripture?2732
- What were the hidden motives of Mr. Smith? ...2733

HOW DO SHEEP KNOW THEIR OWN?



- Why are wolves in sheep's clothing undetectable? ...2738
- How do wolves mask their ways with sheep? ..2739
- How do sounds make an enemy acceptable? ...2740
- When does sight become a deception?2741
- How does early bonding relate to false prophets? 2742

HOW DO "WOLVES" EXPLOIT WEAKNESS?



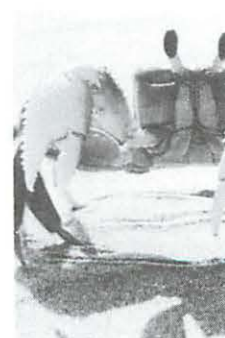
- What motivates the unscrupulous to give?2743
- When does concession become coercion?2745
- How do deceivers "bait" their victims?2746
- When does a bargain become a trap?2747
- How does a planted response influence an entire crowd?2748

WHEN IS MUSIC A RAVENOUS "WOLF"?



- What does it mean to contribute to the delinquency of a minor?2749
- When does music contribute to delinquency? ..2750
- What are the functions of the rock beat?2751
- How does the AMA link rock to rebellion?2752
- What is a class-action lawsuit?2752

HOW IS CANCER LIKE A FALSE PROPHET?



- How do cancer cells disguise themselves?2753
- How does a little compromise in the body begin cancer?2754
- How do cancer cells produce an incorrect message?2756
- How do cancer cells deceive by appearing to be wounded?2758



HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A FALSE PROPHET



Dictionary of American Portraits



Bettmann Archive



Dictionary of American Portraits

If these three individuals were featured speakers at a Bible conference, how would you be able to tell whether or not they were false prophets?

False prophets are so deceptive, dangerous, and destructive that God gives clear direction to every Christian on how to detect them.

This instruction is extremely important, because Scripture also warns us that when these false teachers bring in “. . . damnable heresies . . . many shall follow their pernicious ways . . .” (II Peter 2:1-2).

DANGERS OF FALSE PROPHETS

False prophets are ministers of Satan. Their mission is to deceive Christians and damage the work of God. They prey upon weak, young Christians, and older Christians who have given any “ground” to Satan.

False prophets creep into homes and lead captive those who are too simple-minded to see through their diabolical motives. They lead whole families astray and bring division and destruction wherever they are allowed to coexist or are honored with the platform.

CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE PROPHETS

False prophets are . . .

- 1 Pernicious
- 2 Avaricious
- 3 Prurient
- 4 Arrogant
- 5 Presumptuous
- 6 Intractable
- 7 Impudent
- 8 Uncouth
- 9 Perfidious
- 10 Lecherous
- 11 Libidinous
- 12 Beguiled
- 13 Inane
- 14 Promiscuous
- 15 Degenerate

Each of these words summarizes a portion of the Scripture in which God gives the characteristics of false prophets. This key passage of Scripture is II Peter 2.

DEFINITIONS:

1 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . .

PERNICIOUS

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies. . . . And many shall follow their **pernicious ways** . . .” (vv. 1-2).

When the King James Version was translated, the word *pernicious* was chosen to convey the strength of the original Greek description which Peter gave.

Over the centuries since that time, the English word *pernicious* has weakened in meaning, although the term still denotes “that which will bring great harm, and ultimately, death.” It describes something which is “ruinous or destructive; causing moral injury; evil.”

The root comes from the Latin *nexus*, which means “death” or “to kill.” The Latin prefix *per* means “through, to destruction,” and when added as a prefix as in the case of *pernicious*, it means “very” and intensifies the force of the term.



Department of Medicine,
University of Chicago

Red blood cells

Pernicious anemia

The term *pernicious anemia* is used in the medical world to describe a potentially fatal condition in which there is a deficiency of red blood cells due to an inadequate diet and a lack of vitamin B₁₂. Essential oxygen and nutrients are hindered from nourishing the body, thus creating *pernicious anemia*.

The same Greek word which is translated *pernicious* is also used in Scripture to describe one of the most damnable false prophets in history whose pernicious ways ultimately led to his own death and will also bring death to all who follow.

Although he was well-acquainted with the righteous ways of the Lord, this false prophet preferred the treasures of this world and developed a scheme to use his position as a leader in an emerging ministry to increase his personal wealth.

When his plan resulted in the death of the One he was supposed to represent, overwhelming guilt drove him into such misery that the treasures he sought to obtain became worthless to him, and he ultimately took his own life.

This false prophet was Judas Iscariot, and he experienced spiritual and physical destruction for his sin.

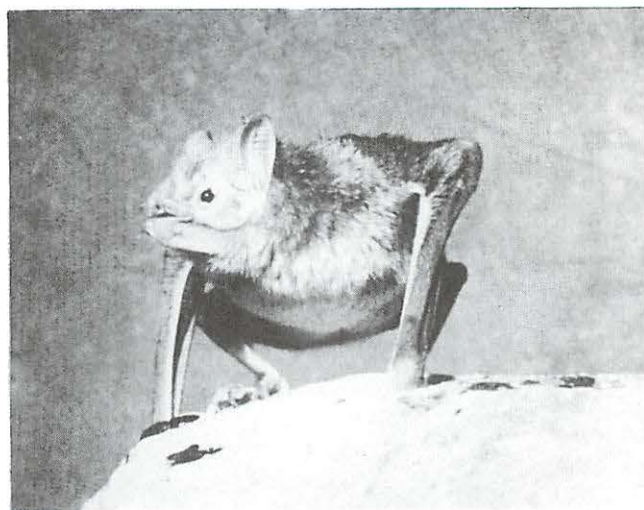
2 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . .

AVARICIOUS

“And through *covetousness* shall they with *feigned words* make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not” (v. 3).

The word *avaricious* denotes one who has an extreme desire to amass wealth. Avarice is the inordinate desire to gain and possess property. It is the insatiable longing for material increase.

The etymology of *avaricious* goes back to the Latin word *avere*, meaning “to covet.”



Bruce J. Hayward

Bats are avaricious creatures. The vampire bat obtains its sustenance from the blood of other animals, but it is never satisfied. Similarly, false prophets drain their followers, yet they are never content.

When Christ and His disciples went up to the Temple to celebrate the Passover, they were shocked by the avarice of the priests, who had been charged by God with the responsibility of the spiritual care of His chosen people. These false prophets had defiled the Temple and transformed the house of worship and prayer into a den of thieves.

In His grief over what had taken place, Christ made a scourge and drove out the money changers and the animals that were being sold. Overturning their tables, He commanded, “. . . *Take these things hence; make not my Father’s house an house of merchandise*” (John 2:16).

Music, like the sacrificial animals sold in the Temple, is used in the worship of God. In our day, false prophets with avaricious motives are making merchandise of God’s people through evil and deceptive music. We are to keep our lives pure from music that does not glorify God.

3 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . .

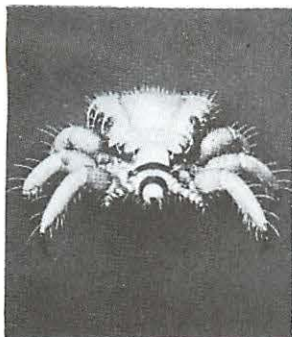
PRURIENT

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that *walk after the flesh* in the *lust of uncleanness* . . .” (vv. 9–10).

The English word *prurient* means “obsessively interested in improper matters, especially of

an immoral nature.” This term is also used to describe anything which arouses such desires, or anyone who is characterized by prurient interests.

Prurient is a derivative of the Latin verb *prurire*, which conveys the idea of an itch with the connotation of a craving that is never satisfied.



The American Museum of Natural History

An ugly, irritating body louse

Just as the body louse feeds itself by piercing its victim’s skin and drawing blood through its beak-like sucker-mouth, so the false prophet creates a discontent for truth and causes his victims to have itching ears for new teachings, while all the time draining them of spiritual life and vitality.

The Scriptural words which describe the inward condition of a false prophet are “the lust of uncleanness.” The Greek word for “uncleanness” means “moral contamination.” It is used to refer to corrupting or misusing what God designed.



Eating Gallery

Prurient art exhibits are those which appeal to the lust of the flesh. In an attempt to draw crowds, both artists and false prophets will stoop to such tactics.

4 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . .

ARROGANT

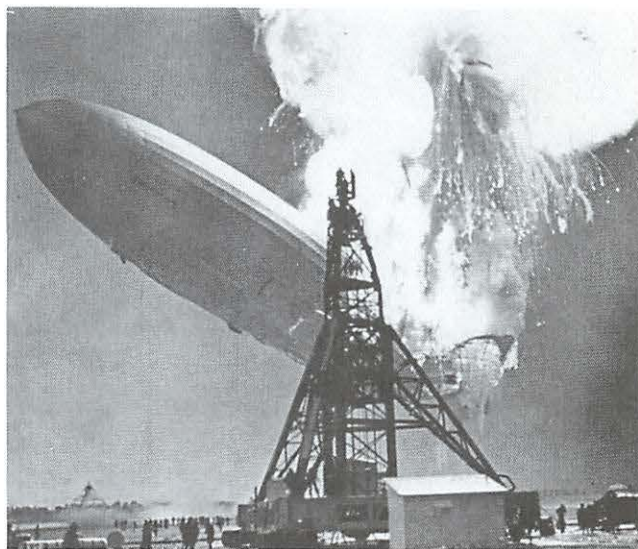
“ . . . Them that . . . despise government . . . ”
(v. 10).

To be *arrogant* is “to be overly convinced of one’s own importance; having the disposition to

make exorbitant claims of rank or estimation; haughty; insolent.”

In ancient Rome, a person who was arrogant would have been described with the Latin word *arrogare*, from which the English word *arrogant* was coined.

The Latin term was actually the combination of *rogare*, meaning “to ask,” with a primary sense of reaching or stretching, and the Latin prefix *ad*, which indicates “motion toward something; increase; or intensified action.”



News Syndicate Co., Inc.

Dangerous hydrogen stretched the inflatable compartments within the *Hindenburg* in the same way that pride fills a false prophet with an exaggerated sense of his own importance. When the true vulnerability of both the airship and the false prophet are discovered, it spells tragedy for those who are trusting them with their lives.

In Old Testament Israel, this term could have been applied to a certain false prophet who had become bitter against his prurient brother and jealous of his high-ranking father. Believing himself to be more adequate to inherit his father’s position upon death than his first-born brother, he began to implement a plan by which he could capture the seat of authority.

After having the brother he despised assassinated, the unusually attractive young man went out into the city to win the hearts of the people. He succeeded in doing this by first asking questions, and then after exaggerating the problems of the day, he expressed his desire to do justice, if only he were exalted to a higher position.

The father failed to deal with his arrogant son, and after many years, the false prophet finally succeeded in seizing the kingdom. However, years of turmoil followed, until one day, the young leader's greatest point of pride became the snare which brought him to his destruction. His long, beautiful hair caught in a tree as he rode under it, and the king's general found and killed the arrogant Absalom.



The arrogant prince despised the dominion of his father and won the hearts of the people. He experienced the swift justice of God.

5 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . .

PRESUMPTUOUS

“. . . *Presumptuous* are they . . .” (v. 10).

A false prophet who is *presumptuous* is “bold and confident to excess; adventuring without reasonable ground of success.” He is one who is often characterized as “hazarding safety on too slight grounds; excessively forward; rash.”

Presumptuous was modified from the Latin *prae* (before) and *sumere* (to take). Thus *presumption* conveys the sense of taking something before it is rightfully mine.

The same Greek word used to communicate the sense of presumption in II Peter 2:10 is used

to portray an aspect of what a true messenger is *not* in the Biblical example of Michael.

“Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil . . . *durst* [presumed] not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, *The Lord rebuke thee*” (Jude 9).

Michael was conscious of a hierarchy of authority, and he respected the fact that there were others over him with greater authority than he had. He called upon that Higher Authority when it was appropriate to do so.

One who is presumptuous disregards lines of authority and areas of responsibility. Saul, for example, presumptuously entered into the priest's office and made sacrifices without waiting for Samuel. God judged him for this presumption and other sins by taking the kingdom from him.

The presumption of a false prophet was speaking in the name of the Lord when God gave him no such message. Any person who was guilty of such presumption was to be put to death.

“But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die” (Deuteronomy 18:20).

6 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . .

INTRACTABLE

“. . . [They are] *self-willed* . . .” (v. 10).

The word *intractable* denotes “one who is difficult to manage or govern; stubborn; difficult to direct; difficult to alleviate, remedy, or cure.” It is from the Latin *tracto*, which means “to handle; to manage,” and is modified by the prefix *in*, which reverses the Latin root's meaning.

Biblical synonyms of the word *intractable* are *stubborn*, *stiff-necked*, and *self-willed*. The root meaning of the Greek word for “self-willed” is “self-pleasing,” with sensual connotations.

A false prophet is ungoverned by outside authority. He has built life around himself and will follow only the dictates of his own pride and passion.

A false prophet is a personification of the analogy in Psalm 32:9:

“Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle. . . .”



Just as the uncontrollable horse is a threat to anyone who would try to harness it, so a false prophet is a danger to any Christian who would try to show him where he is wrong.

7 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . .

IMPUDENT

“. . . They are not afraid to **speak evil of dignities**. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord” (vv. 10–11).

An impudent person is “rude; rash; disrespectful; insolent; insulting; and discourteous.” One who is impudent has no fear of God or reverence for man.

When Jehoshaphat wanted to know whether it was God’s will for him to enter into a military alliance with the wicked king of Israel, he sought counsel from the prophet Micaiah. Micaiah was a true prophet of the Lord and warned Jehoshaphat that he would face defeat if he aligned himself with the king of Israel.

Then a false prophet named Zedekiah walked up to Micaiah, slapped him in the face, and asked him an impudent question: “. . . Which way went the spirit of the Lord from me to speak unto thee?” (I Kings 22:24).

Micaiah then applied the tests of Scripture to their conflicting counsel. Whichever prophecy came true would determine which prophet was genuine and which prophet was false. (See I Kings 22:28.)

8 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . .

UNCOUTH

“But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption” (v. 12).



A brute beast is one that is unreasonable and unpredictable such as an angry bear or lion. The Greek word for “brute” means “irrational; one who is governed by emotions rather than by sound wisdom.”

An uncouth person is crude and unrefined. He is boorish, crass, uncivil, coarse, and ill-mannered.

The word *uncouth* means “odd; strange; unusual,” but not in a pleasing way.

A false prophet is one who is uncouth toward the sacred things of God. He damages the name of the Lord and commits sacrilege against the holy things of God.

Parallel Scriptural words for *uncouth* are *profane*, *vulgar*, and *base*. A profane person is one who is irreverent toward sacred things. His irreverence proceeds from an attitude of contempt.

A base person is one who despises the standards of Godliness and is willing to act in any manner that achieves his selfish goals or those of others.

When the Jews were envious at the hearing that the Apostle Paul received, “. . . [They] took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar . . .” (Acts 17:5).

9 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . .

PERFIDIOUS

They count it “. . . pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you” (v. 13).

The word **perfidy** means “a deliberate breach of faith; a calculated violation of trust; treachery.” *Perfidious* comes from two Latin words: *per*, meaning “through,” and *fides*, meaning “faith.” A perfidious person is one who breaks faith with those who trusted in him.

Judas Iscariot’s perfidious act made him the most notorious traitor in history. (See Luke 6:16.)

Synonyms of *perfidious* are *deceitful*, *disloyal*, *unfaithful*, *untrustworthy*, *undependable*, and *untruthful*.

A corresponding Scriptural term would be the Greek word for *traitor* as used in II Timothy 3:1–4: “*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. . . . Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.*” The word *traitor* literally means “going forward into the enemy’s camp; surrendering; betraying the trust of others.”

The self-righteous Pharisees demonstrated a perfidious attitude toward the religious people of their time, who devoutly followed their teachings to gain eternal life. Christ condemned them for not only standing in the doorway, but making their converts “twofold more the children of hell” than they were. (See Matthew 23:15.)



J. A. Grant, Natural Science Photos

The treacherous black widow is so named because she eats her mate. Her bite is also the most dangerous of all spiders in the United States. Deaths have been reported from complications arising from the bite of this perfidious creature.

10 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . . **LECHEROUS**

False prophets have “. . . eyes full of adultery . . .” (v. 14).

Lechery is “excessive indulgence in or preoccupation with immoral activity.” It involves succumbing to the lusts of the flesh.

The origin of this term is found in the Old French word *lechier*. This verb meant “to live in debauchery.”

Lecherous conveys a meaning similar to terms such as *carnality*, *lust*, *promiscuity*, *lewdness*, *lasciviousness*, and *salaciousness*. It is contrasted by such concepts as *purity*, *chasteness*, *morality*, and *virtue*.

The characteristics of the tarsier (TAR-see-ay) illustrate the lecherous obsession of the false prophet. Both operate in the darkness. Both are characterized by bulging eyes. The tarsier and the false prophet both have appetites that control their lives.



Dover, Inc.

Noah was a righteous prophet who endured many years of persecution from the lecherous men and women of his day. After the flood which God sent to cleanse the earth of wickedness, Noah settled down to farm the land and raise up a Godly seed to replenish it.

However, Noah fell under the devastating power of alcohol when he drank the wine which he had made. In his drunken stupor, Noah uncovered himself in his tent, and he was discovered by his lecherous son, Ham.

When Ham told his brothers what he had done, Shem and Japheth backed into the tent and covered their father until he awoke from his drunkenness.

Because of his lechery, Ham lost the great potential which he had to be a prophet for truth. Instead, Ham and all his generations were cursed. (See Genesis 9:24–25.)

11 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . . LIBIDINOUS

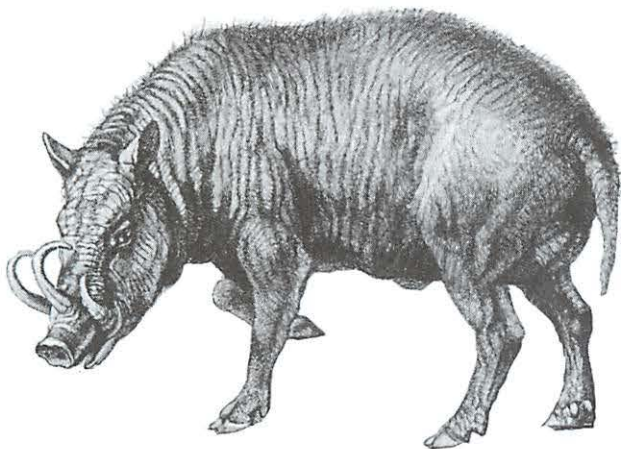
“. . . [They] cannot cease from sin . . .”
(v. 14).

The word *libidinous* comes from the Latin word *libido*, which means “desire.” It denotes unrestrained, lustful appetites leading to unscrupulous, immoral behavior.

A libidinous person is depraved, lewd, and wanton. Such a person is described in the Bible as licentious, abominable, reprobate, and perverted.

False prophets cannot look at women without lust. They captivate the unstable ones, and their technique of getting what they want is highly developed through long practice.

In contrast to the word *libidinous* are the words *chaste*, *pure*, *moral*, *responsible*, and *principled*.



Dover, Inc.

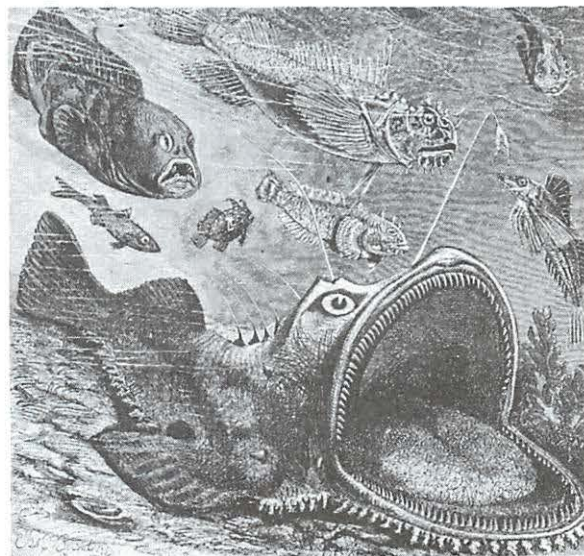
The term *libidinous* is illustrated by the wild boar. The wild boar is strong and ferocious and weighs up to four hundred pounds. It hides in thickets during the day and hunts at night. It enjoys wallowing in the mud. Sharp tusks protrude from its mouth and become lethal weapons against anyone who would challenge the boar. The nature of a wild boar cannot be changed by outward cleansing, neither can a false prophet change his fallen nature by outward ceremony.

12 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . . BEGUILED

“. . . Beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children” (v. 14).

A false prophet not only beguiles others, but has been beguiled himself by Satan. The word *beguile* means “to delude; to impose on by artifice or craft.” It means also “to lead astray; to ensnare; to lure; to captivate.”

There is a significant distinction between being deceived and being beguiled. Deceiving a person is giving him false information. Beguiling a person is giving him partial information and allowing him to fill in the blanks the wrong way.



Dover, Inc.

The angler, or monk fish, lures its victims into the trap of its mouth in the same way a false prophet appeals to the sensual nature of his listeners.

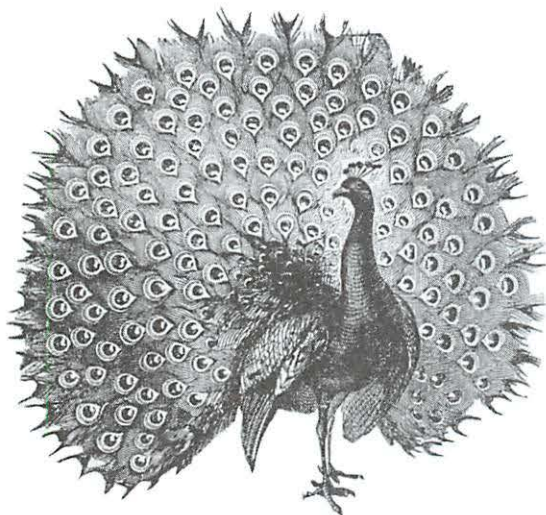
13 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . . INANE

“These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error” (vv. 17–18).

Inane comes from the Latin word *inanis*, meaning “empty or vain.” An inane person is one lacking in sense or substance. His life is empty and void of wisdom and meaning.

Synonyms of *inane* are *foolish*, *senseless*, *absurd*, *void of intelligence*, *shallow*, *empty*, *ridiculous*, and *meaningless*.

Both the life and the reasonings of a false prophet are inane. They are described by the reoccurring phrase in Ecclesiastes 1:2: “Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher . . . all is vanity.”



Dover, Inc.

Just as the peacock struts about in a pompous exhibit of self-display, so the false prophet uses great, swelling words to attract the admiration of those he seeks to impress.

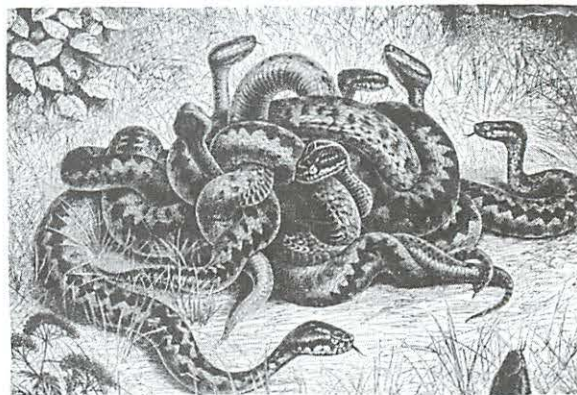
14 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . . PROMISCUOUS

“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought into bondage” (v. 19).

A promiscuous person is indiscriminate in sexual relationships. The word *promiscuous* is from the Latin *pro*, which means “thoroughly,” and *miscere*, which means “to mix.”

One who is promiscuous is devoid of standards in selection. He is undiscerning, careless, mingled together, and chaotic. Synonyms for *promiscuous* are *loose*, *rakish*, *dissipated*, and *corrupt*.

Scripture uses the term *confusion* to describe a promiscuous person.



Dover, Inc.

The slithery mass of snakes is a repulsive illustration of the promiscuity that characterizes a false prophet.

15 A FALSE PROPHET IS . . . DEGENERATE

“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning” (v. 20).

A degenerate person is morally deteriorated—one who exhibits deviant, degenerate behavior. The word *degenerate* comes from the Latin *degenere*, which means “to fall away from one’s ancestral quality.” *De* means “away from,” and *genus* means “race.”

A degenerate person is one who has fallen away from good qualities into base and depraved character.

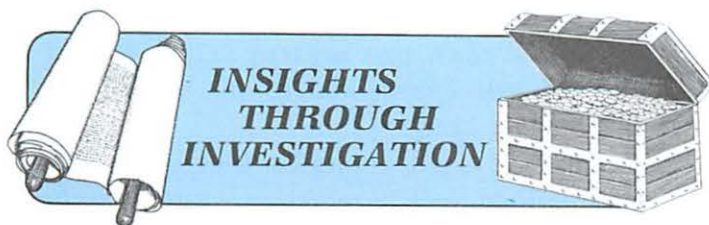


As scavengers attack a dead mole, so false prophets prey upon those whom they ensnare. Ultimately, the false prophet is consumed by his own degenerate nature.

PROJECT

Arrange these fifteen terms according to surface problems and root causes.

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



HOW DO THREE GREEK WORDS TEACH US GOD'S WAY TO WISELY RESPOND TO FALSE PROPHETS?



It is the responsibility of the shepherd, not the sheep, to protect the flock from dangerous predators such as ravenous wolves. Sheep are not designed to deal with these enemies, and any attempt to do so usually results in the sheep's destruction.

The spiritual growth and welfare of Christians depends on their recognizing and avoiding false prophets and their deceptive teachings.

The following three words are taken from passages that deal directly with false prophets. By understanding and applying them to our lives we will be able to escape the plundering that comes to so many Christians from these ravaging wolves.

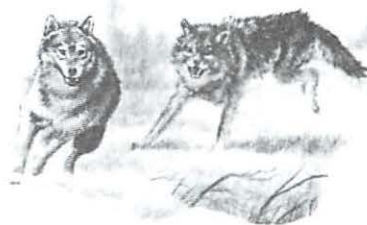
1 προσέχω OF FALSE PROPHETS

The Greek word προσέχω (praw-SEH-ko) means "beware." It is used in Matthew 7:15–18 and provides a precise picture of how we should be alert to the danger of false prophets.

15 Προσέχετε δὲ ἀπὸ τῶν ψευδοπροφητῶν,
But beware of the false prophets,
οἵτινες ἔρχονται πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἐν ἐνδύμασιν
who come to you in raiment
προβάτων, ἔσωθεν δὲ εἰσὶν λύκοι ἄρπαγες. 16 ἀπὸ
of sheep, but within are wolves rapacious. By
τῶν καρπῶν αὐτῶν ἐπιγνώσεσθε αὐτούς· μή τι
their fruits ye shall know them.
συλλέγουσιν ἀπὸ ἀκανθῶν σταφυλὴν ἢ
Do they gather from thorns a bunch of grapes, or
ἀπὸ τριβόλων σῦκα; 17 οὕτως πᾶν δένδρον ἀγαθόν
from thistles figs? So every tree good
καρποῦς καλοὺς ποιεῖ· τὸ δὲ σαπρὸν δένδρον
fruits good produces, but the corrupt tree
καρποῦς πονηροὺς ποιεῖ. 18 οὐ δύναται δένδρον
fruits bad produces. Cannot a tree
ἀγαθὸν καρποὺς πονηροὺς ποιεῖν, οὐδὲ δένδρον
good fruits evil produce, nor a tree
σαπρὸν καρποὺς καλοὺς ποιεῖν.
corrupt fruits good produce.

προσέχω literally means "to hold the mind." In practice this would mean "to pay attention to; to be cautious about; to take heed to."

"To beware" requires that we apply ourselves to watching out for false prophets. The need for such alertness is explained in the fact that false prophets will come disguised as fellow Christians. They will make special efforts to win our acceptance and our approval so they can carry out their destructive work.



But how are we to be on the alert for false prophets without having a judgmental spirit toward every new Christian who enters the church?

The answer is found in Matthew 7:15–20. We are not to judge the person, but to discern the quality of his fruit.

The fruit of a false prophet in his own personal life is described in II Peter 2. The fruit of a false prophet in the lives of his followers is listed in II Timothy 3:1–9.

We all have a tendency to reject the people we should accept and accept the people that we should reject.

For this reason it is essential that faithful shepherds exercise their God-given responsibility to test the fruit of those who come into the church and warn the flock about those who are wolves in sheep's clothing.

Paul fulfilled this responsibility when he warned the early Christians about Jannes and Jambres. (See II Timothy 3:8.) He also warned them about Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom he delivered unto Satan, that they might learn not to blaspheme. (See I Timothy 1:20.)

The early Christians had strong reason to reject Saul of Tarsus, because he was making havoc of the Church. However, when he became a Christian, Barnabas brought him to the apostles and gave testimony regarding the fruit of his Christian life.

“But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus” (Acts 9:27).

What motives to beware of:

The Apostle Paul was committed to guarding the flock from the destructive influences of the devourer. He was concerned *“... lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (II Corinthians 11:3).*

1 The motive of money

One of the chief motivations of the false prophet is personal financial gain. False prophets are destitute of wisdom but assume that financial gain is a measure of Godliness. From such people we are to withdraw ourselves. (See I Timothy 6:5.)

In order to avoid this mark of a false prophet, Paul established the policy of charging nothing for his service, even though he had the Scriptural right to do so, because the laborer is worthy of his hire.

“... When I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man . . .” (II Corinthians 11:9).

This sign of a false prophet is so important to avoid that Paul made a requirement that anyone who wanted to be a leader in the church must not do it for the motive of money. *“... **Not greedy of filthy lucre** . . .” (I Timothy 3:3).*

Peter reinforces this point when he gives the following instruction: *“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; **not for filthy lucre**, but of a ready mind” (I Peter 5:2).*

The money motive of a false prophet is again warned about in Titus 1:11: *“Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for **filthy lucre’s sake**.”*



God specifically reveals that the motive of Balaam was monetary gain. “Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core” (Jude 11).

2 The motive of power

The second distinctive mark of a false prophet is his desire to control people.

A false prophet wants to control people because he views people as the source of his power and his authority. Therefore, the more people he can control, the more power he has.

In dramatic contrast to this false view of power, the true prophet views God as the source of his power. The true prophet is therefore not afraid to stand against all the people of a nation in speaking truth for God.

Jeremiah, Elijah, Ezekiel, and Daniel were all willing to stand for truth, even though it was unpopular in their day.

A false prophet will compromise God's truth if it offends people, because he does not want to

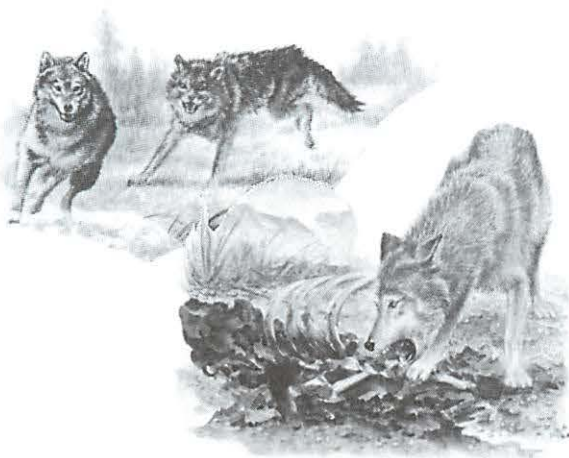
damage his power base. His goal, therefore, is that all men speak well of him. Yet, Jesus pointed out that this is one of the marks of a false prophet.

"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets" (Luke 6:26).

John the Baptist was praised by Jesus Christ as the greatest prophet ever born. His greatness was in the fact that he so closely aligned himself with the power and program of God that he simply viewed himself as a "voice" of the One Whom he represented.

His way of experiencing more "power" was, therefore, logical: *"He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30)*, because *"a man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven" (John 3:27).*

Paul warns of the wrong motive of power:



"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30).

3 The motive of sensuality

The third basic motivation of a false prophet is sensual pleasure.

In exchange for the loyalty of people he will grant them license to do what their lower nature wants to do. Because he is appealing to their basic fleshly nature he is able to gain a large following.

"... Many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (II Peter 2:2).

False prophets promise people sensual liberty, yet they themselves are the servants of corruption.

God denounces this motivation of the false prophets in Jude 8: *"Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh. . . ."*

What methods to beware of:

1 The method of undermining God-given authority

It is the nature of a wolf to avoid attacking a flock of sheep when they are all banded together. The wolf waits for the young and the weak to stray from the flock. Similarly, false prophets look for the weak and the young and seek to bring them under their control.

To help this process along, false prophets will often attack the leadership of a church in order to scatter the flock. False prophets are usually able to find discontented church members whom they agitate with complaints that sound legitimate—under the guise of wanting to "strengthen the church" and "improve the pastor."

They then call for unauthorized meetings, in which they cross-infect each other with personal complaints.

These false prophets, *"... despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities" (II Peter 2:10).*

"... As Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth. . . ." (II Timothy 3:8).

2 The method of exploiting younger or weaker Christians

False prophets operate in the church in the same way that cancer cells operate in the body. Cancer cells stop getting nourishment from the bloodstream and instead sap weaker cells of life and vitality. They also work through weaker cells in

affecting other cells. As a cancerous tumor enlarges, it breaks up and spreads throughout the body, continuing its deadly work.

A cancer cell gains entrance to a normal body cell by “knocking on its door” and communicating the message, “I am just like you; let me in.”

Similarly, false prophets prey upon Christians with the same root problems of bitterness, greed, or immorality. *“For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts” (II Timothy 3:6).*

3 The method of misinterpreting the meaning of grace

In order to justify rebellion to authority and engage in sensual pleasures, the false prophet will promote an unscriptural definition of grace.

A false prophet speaks vigorously against what he calls “legalism,” but this “legalism,” in reality, is consistent with Godly standards and basic elements of the law of love, which have never been abolished.

It is true that the Christian is not under the law in the sense that we work for our salvation or try to keep the law with our own human efforts. For this reason, God gives the Christian grace—the desire and the power to do His will.

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).

Paul explained the dynamic attribute of grace: *“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me” (I Corinthians 15:10).*

By giving some other definition to grace, we turn grace into a license to do whatever we please and assume that God will overlook our actions and withhold any consequences.

“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 4).

The common definition of “God’s unmerited favor” is more a description of mercy than it is of grace.

2 δοκιμάζω EVERY PROPHET

The word δοκιμάζω (daw-kih-MAHD-zoe) is translated in the English text as “try.” In the Greek it means “to prove; to test; to allow; to discern; to examine; to approve.”

We are to carry out these important functions with everyone who claims to speak in the name of Christ. This is the instruction of I John 4:1–4:

1 Ἀγαπητοί, μὴ παντὶ πνεύματι πιστεύετε, ἀλλὰ
Beloved, not every spirit believe, but
δοκιμάζετε τὰ πνεύματα, εἰ ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ
prove the spirits, if of God
ἐστίν· ὅτι πολλοὶ ψευδοπροφῆται ἐξεληλύθασιν
they are; because many false prophets have gone out
εἰς τὸν κόσμον. 2 ἐν τούτῳ γινώσκετε τὸ
into the world. By this ye know the
πνεῦμα τοῦ θεοῦ· πᾶν πνεῦμα ὃ ὁμολογεῖ
Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses
Ἰησοῦν χριστὸν ἐν σαρκὶ ἐληλυθότα, ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ
Jesus Christ in flesh come, of God
ἐστίν. 3 καὶ πᾶν πνεῦμα ὃ μὴ ὁμολογεῖ
is; and any spirit which confesses not
τὸν Ἰησοῦν χριστὸν ἐν σαρκὶ ἐληλυθότα, ἐκ
Jesus Christ in flesh come, of
τοῦ θεοῦ οὐκ ἐστίν· καὶ τοῦτο ἐστίν τὸ
God not is; and this is that (power)
τοῦ ἀντιχρίστου, ὃ ἀκήκοάτε ὅτι ἔρχεται,
of the antichrist, (of) which ye heard that it comes,
καὶ νῦν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἐστὶν ἤδη. 4 Ὑμεῖς
and now in the world is it already. Ye
ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστε, τέκνια, καὶ νενικήκατε
of God are, little children, and have overcome
αὐτούς· ὅτι μείζων ἐστὶν ὁ ἐν ὑμῖν ἢ
them, because greater is he who (is) in you than
ὁ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ.
he who (is) in the world.

According to this Scripture passage, we are to try every teacher in the following three ways.

1 Test the spirit of the prophet.

God has given each of us a human spirit by which we can discern the spirits of other people. When we become Christians, God gives us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit quickens our human spirits and allows us to discern spiritual matters.

If we listen to a false prophet, the Holy Spirit will give us an immediate warning of error. At that point, we should stop listening to the voice of the false prophet.

Our minds will tend to argue with our spirits and try to convince us that we should continue listening to the error. If we follow the dictates of our minds, we will grieve the Holy Spirit, and then we will not have the spiritual perception that is necessary to recognize the error of false prophets.

It is very easy for our minds to be deceived. Scripture warns about the danger of such deception in verses such as Proverbs 14:12: *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

In order to avoid the danger of grieving the Holy Spirit and quenching His power, it is important that we place our minds under the control of our spirits. Then, with the Holy Spirit in charge, we will be able to detect false spirits such as the following:

- **The spirit of error**
- **The spirit of this world**
- **The spirit of antichrist**
- **The spirit of filthiness**
- **The spirit of deception**

The danger of a Christian's receiving "another spirit"

A Christian who is born again by the Spirit of God is capable of being beguiled through corrupt doctrine and receiving "another spirit." This is the clear teaching of II Corinthians 11:3-4.

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."

Paul is observing in this verse how easily Christians accept another spirit or another doctrine from the one he preached.

When we become Christians, we receive the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit is a person, we do not just receive part of Him, but *all* of Him.

The ability of the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in our lives after salvation depends upon how much of ourselves we yield to Him.

HOW TONGUES WERE TESTED

We are commanded to try *every* spirit. This would include the spirit of a tongue.

Speaking in tongues was one of the early Church's manifestations of the Holy Spirit that is listed in I Corinthians 12. However, Satan is the master deceiver, and he is able to counterfeit any of the spiritual gifts.

Most Christians who speak in a tongue have never even thought about testing it. Most of those who have heard about testing tongues do not know how to do it. However, testimonies have been given from a certain wise and Godly couple who have tested the spirits of over three hundred tongues.

This couple, Pastor George and Grace Birch, retired in 1968 after thirty years of missionary work in China under the mission that Hudson Taylor founded. They now live in White Rock, British Columbia, and continue to be active in the Lord's work.

This couple would ask the person who wanted his tongue tested to agree that the spirit of the tongue would answer in English, and that he himself would not give the answers, but would "sit back and listen."

The couple would then give the following question to the tongue:

"Spirit of the tongue, do you confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh?" (Based on I John 4:2)

The following response to this question by a Christian teenage girl was typical.

"No."

"We command you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, tell us your name."

"Gift-bearer."

"Gift-bearer, we command you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to tell us who sent you."

"Satan."

"In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you to tell us what your work is in this girl."

"To lead her away from God."

"What lies have you been telling her? In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, tell the truth."

"I have been telling her things about her family and friends that are evil and wicked so she won't love them."

2 Test the words of the prophet.

Every word that a prophet speaks is to be investigated according to the teachings of Scripture. God commends the Berean Christians as being more noble than the believers in Thessalonica, because the Bereans “. . . searched the scriptures daily . . .” to see whether Paul’s teachings were in harmony with the Old Testament Scriptures. (See Acts 17:11.) If any prophet gives a false gospel, he is to be accursed. (See Galatians 1:8.)

Scripture gives a precise test to determine whether a prophet is true or false. “. . . Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist . . .” (1 John 4:2–3).

3 Test the fruit of the prophet.

The fruit of the Spirit is listed in Galatians 5:22–23: “. . . Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance. . . .”

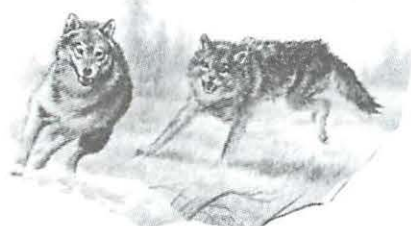
The works of the flesh are also listed in this passage and are evidences of false prophets: “. . . Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like . . .” (Galatians 5:19–21).

The instruction to test the fruit of a prophet also explains the reasons for doing it.

“Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

“A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:16–20).



3 ἀντίστημι

EVERY FALSE PROPHET

As soon as we recognize a false prophet, we are commanded by God to reject him and cut off any further contact with him. This is the intent of the Greek word for “resist” in James 4:7:

ὑποτάγητε	οὖν	τῷ θεῷ.	ἀντίστητε	τῷ
Subject yourselves	therefore	to God.	Resist	the
διαβόλῳ,	καὶ	φεύξεται	ἀπ’	ὑμῶν.
devil,	and	he will flee	from	you.

The Greek word ἀντίστημι (ahn-THI-stay-mee) means “to stand against; to oppose.” It comes from the words ἀντί, meaning “against,” and στάω, meaning “to stand.” It is a militant and combative word and denotes conflict and active opposition.

These concepts are all part of the instruction of James 4:7: “. . . Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

This instruction is repeated in I Peter 5:9: “Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

In order to resist false prophets, we need to understand that we are actually resisting Satan, because every false prophet is a minister of his, and “. . . we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers . . .” (Ephesians 6:12).

PROJECT

Apply the three Greek words to the modern-day prophets whose teachings are being given through “Christian rock” music.

As background, read Psalm 144:7–15 and Revelation 5:1–14. Look up the Hebrew words for **strange** (5236) and **new** (2319) in your Strong’s Concordance.

- Note the musical context: “Whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood. I will sing a new song unto thee, O God . . .” (Psalm 144:8–9).
- Note also the nature of the new song to be sung before the Lord in Heaven: “And they sang a new song, saying, thou art worthy . . .” (Revelation 5:9).
- Explain the deception of trying to use worldly rock to praise God or to win the lost.

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



HISTORY RESOURCE

HOW DID THE IMMORAL APPETITES OF A MAN GROW INTO THE IMPURE DOCTRINES OF A FALSE PROPHET?



An angry mob dragged a young cult leader from his home one night and tarred and feathered him. He called it an act of religious persecution against the "church" he had founded—was this accusation true, or was another motive involved?

The full moon was just coming up as a group of men quietly made their way through the town of Kirtland, Ohio. Some of them carried torches, and others had clubs. One man had a bucket of hot, sticky tar. They were headed for the house of a young man who had moved into their area just a couple of years before.

As the leader of a new religious group, he claimed to receive frequent revelations from God. The concern of the men that night, however, was not the theological views of this self-proclaimed prophet. They were outraged by his immoral behavior with several young women in the community.

The mob reached the house, and several of the leaders stormed through the door. They dragged the young man out and took him to a field several hundred yards away. There the angry

men tarred and feathered him and then fled into the night.

This was not the first occasion the religious leader was castigated by the townspeople for his immorality. Neither did this action by any means put an end to his pursuit of immoral relationships. Indeed, the bent of this man's life makes him a prime example of the fact that **one whose morality dictates his theology may turn out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing.**

The future "prophet" was born in Vermont in 1805. His parents, though not church-goers, were considered very religious, but a more accurate word would be *superstitious*. They had a Bible in the home and read from it frequently, but they seemed to place more importance on the strange dreams and visions from God which they both claimed to experience from time to time.

When he was about ten years old, the boy's family moved to western New York State, which at that time was a frontier area and a region where pious emotionalism was a familiar feature of community life. The various Christian denominations openly competed for members, and other religious groups, such as the Masons, flourished.

The boy, like his father, spent a great deal of time digging for buried treasure around Palmyra where the family lived. He also made money by advising other people how to find lost objects and where to dig for gold. He did this by means of a "peep stone" or "seer stone."

This was a piece of polished rock that he would place in a hat. By putting his face down into the hat and blocking out the light, he could supposedly "see" the location of the desired object. His involvement in this occult practice is what kept him from becoming a church member.

He had applied to join the Methodist church, but the committee knew about his peep stone business. When given the opportunity to renounce the practice, he chose instead to withdraw his application for membership.

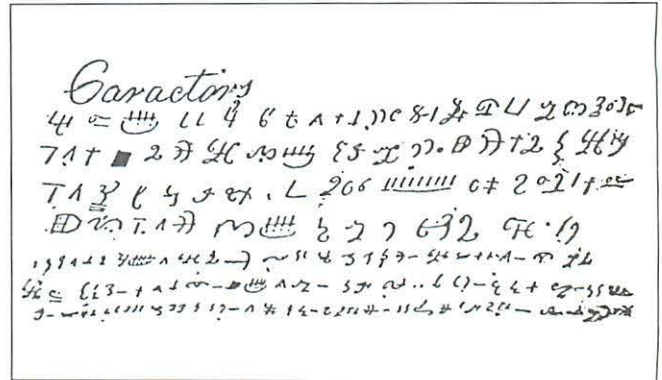
The young man continued to be interested in religion and even told his parents that he would one day start a church. By this he did not mean merely a local congregation, or even a new denomination.

One day when he was about fifteen, the boy had a "spiritual experience" in a grove of trees behind his house. According to one account, he supposedly received a revelation that all denominations were in error.

In another account of this vision the messenger was said to be a resurrected human being named Moroni. Actually it was probably either a demon or what the Old Testament calls a familiar spirit: *“And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”* (Isaiah 8:19–20).

A black and white illustration depicting a scene from a story. On the left, a monk with a beard and curly hair, wearing a long, dark, flowing robe, stands with his right hand raised in a gesture of surprise or warning. He holds a small, dark object, possibly a book or a scroll, in his left hand. On the right, a man in a military uniform, including a bicorne hat and a high-collared jacket, stands facing the monk. He holds a rolled-up document or map in his hands. The background shows a field with some ruins or a stone structure, suggesting an outdoor setting. The style is that of a 19th-century engraving.

Off and on during the next couple of years, he worked at “translating” the inscriptions on the plates into English. He claimed that the material was written in “Reformed Egyptian,” but unbiased archaeologists and historians have been unable to find any evidence that such a language ever existed.



The above represents a sample of what was said to be Reformed Egyptian characters used in the *Book of Mormon*. Before the book was published, one of Joseph Smith's followers showed it to Dr. Charles Anton, an expert in ancient languages. The professor immediately pronounced the manuscript a hoax.

Furthermore, significant portions (over 27,000 words) were copied from the Bible. When these parts were translated (reputedly from the Reformed Egyptian) they came out exactly the same as passages in the King James Version—word for word.

One reason for this rapid growth was that the early Mormons did not hesitate to direct their missionary efforts at ministers. Their success in several instances turned out to be significant for the future of the movement.

Soon after the *Book of Mormon* was published, Samuel Smith, Joseph's younger brother, set out with a knapsack full of the books, hoping to sell them and make converts. In one town he called on the local minister. The preacher did not want one himself but said he would see if anyone on his circuit was interested in a copy.

So Samuel left a copy for him to take along. When he returned ten days later to retrieve the volume, the pastor was not home, but his wife had read the book and been taken in by its lies. Samuel decided since the books were not selling very well that he would just leave that copy there. When the pastor read it later, he too swallowed the fantastic tale. That same copy was the one which eventually found its way into the hands of Brigham Young, who read it and later succeeded Joseph Smith as the leader of the Mormon cult.

In the late 1820s a popular preacher named Sidney Rigdon was pastoring a church in Ohio. Previously he had been pastor of a large church in Pittsburgh but was thrown out because of his unorthodox doctrine. In Ohio he had associated himself with Alexander Campbell, founder of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Later Mr. Rigdon withdrew his congregation from the Campbellite movement, asserting that Mr. Campbell was not following Scripture. By departing from the Campbellites, Mr. Rigdon was then freer to exercise his own off-base beliefs, including what he called New Testament "communism." He even led his church to establish two communes.

Then Parley Pratt, a man he had supposedly won to the Lord the year before, came to visit. Mr. Pratt had become an itinerant preacher. On a trip through western New York, he came across the recently published *Book of Mormon*. Rather than using discernment and rejecting it as soon as he saw that it contradicted Scripture, he read it and found that it seemed to answer many of his questions. He immediately embraced the heretical religion.



Dictionary of American Portraits

Sidney Rigdon

Now he urged Mr. Rigdon to read the new book and decide for himself whether or not to accept this teaching. At first the pastor acted skeptical, but then he seemed to put aside his cautions quickly. He began to read and right away announced that he thought the book compared favorably with the Bible. He was baptized the next morning.

This sudden change of heart seems less strange in light of firm historical evidence that Mr. Rigdon not only knew about the *Book of Mormon* before this time but had, in fact, collaborated with Joseph Smith in the writing (that is, the plagiarizing) of it. His pretended conversion at this time was designed to conceal the fact that the alleged historical basis for the new religion was nothing more than a clever fabrication.

Apparently the deception worked quite well—within the next few days almost the entire membership of Sidney Rigdon's church converted to Mormonism. The Smith-Rigdon connection is also seen in the fact that the "prophet" soon received a "revelation" that he and his followers were to move to Kirtland, Ohio. There the number of Latter-day Saints increased rapidly, partly because of Mr. Rigdon's influence in that region.



Utah State Historical Society

Parley Pratt

John Taylor, one of the first twelve "apostles" of the Mormon church and later the successor of Brigham Young as president, was at one time a Methodist preacher in Toronto. He was the leader of a study group of men (including a number of ministers) who were trying to evaluate various denominations according to Scripture.

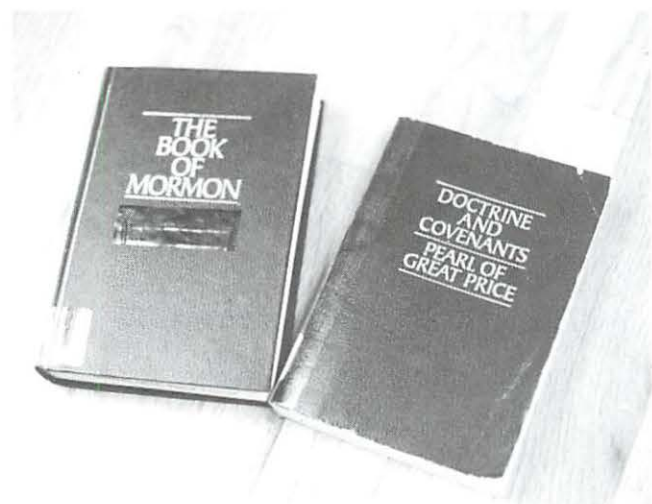
One evening Parley Pratt visited one of their meetings and was invited to respond to a question. He deferred, saying it would take too long to explain his position.

The group insisted, however, and Mr. Pratt proceeded to demonstrate how he believed that all the denominations had gone astray and that Joseph Smith had been ordained to restore true Christianity. Mr. Taylor was beguiled by these lies and, with only one exception, so was everyone else in the group.

Joseph Smith used one ploy to make his devious proselytizing quite easy. He, like most other false prophets, wanted to appear genuine, so he appealed to an authority that was almost universally accepted in the nineteenth century: the Bible. He could not openly repudiate the authority of Scripture. If he had, many of the people who ultimately became his followers would not have been so willing to listen to him in the first place. Yet, Mormonism undermines the authority of Scripture.

Mr. Smith always claimed that he regarded the Bible as the Word of God as far as it was correctly translated. This qualification enabled him to claim that any discrepancy between his doctrines and Scripture was a result of translation errors. He was so convinced that such errors were numerous and significant that he even began compiling his own “inspired translation” of the Bible.

It is clear that his purpose was to correct the “mistakes” he saw in the Authorized (King James) Version. What is not clear is how a man who did not know Hebrew or Greek could even pretend to be able to translate the Scriptures!

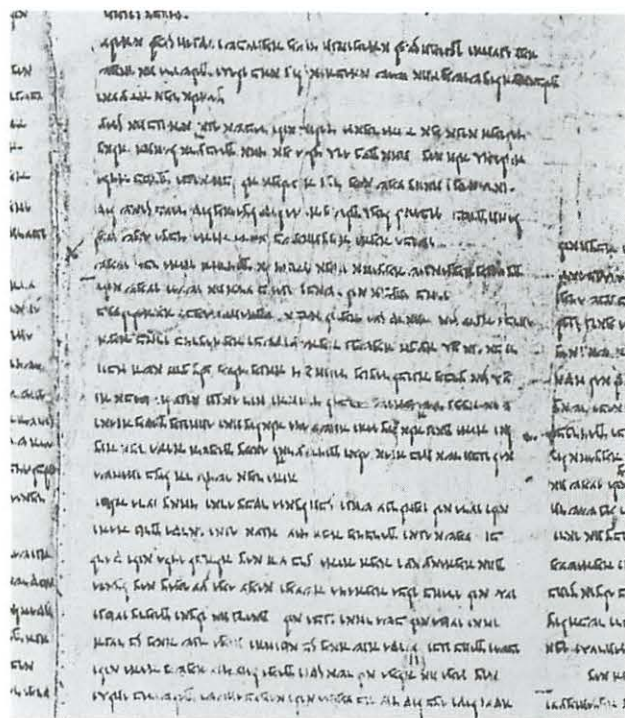


The Book of Mormon as well as Joseph Smith's other books (*Doctrine and Covenants* and *The Pearl of Great Price*), which were based on later “revelations from the Lord,” are all considered to be part of the Mormon canon of scripture.

In contrast, the *Book of Mormon*, which was given a position of authority along with the Bible, was said to be entirely without error. In Mr. Smith's view, the Bible was not only defective but also an incomplete revelation. In the *Book of Mormon* an angel says that after the Bible has gone forth through the Church, many “plain and precious things” will be removed from the Bible.

A few pages later, God is quoted as reprimanding those who say they have a Bible already and do not need any more Scripture, and telling them that they *will* receive “more” of His Word.

What a clear violation of Revelation 22:18: “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.”



American Schools of Oriental Research

The Dead Sea Scrolls, which were discovered a century after Joseph Smith lived, have proven that rather than being incomplete, the newer Bible manuscripts are remarkably complete when compared with those transcribed a thousand years earlier.

Writing down his new “revelations” and putting them in other books was one of two ways Mr. Smith tried to compensate for the Bible's alleged incompleteness. The other way was to make a revision of the Bible itself. This “inspired translation,” however, was more than just a matter of trying to improve the translation.

He inserted new material at many points, sometimes only a few words but often whole chapters. One section he added to the book of Genesis, for example, predicts the coming of a prophet named Joseph in the latter day.

Mr. Smith's successors as president of the church were (and still are) thought to be prophets in their own right. This means, in part, that their

doctrinal pronouncements are regarded by Mormons as authoritative, that is, on an equal plane with or even superior to God's Word.

Like the proverbial wolf in sheep's clothing, Joseph Smith's Bible-like front was a mask to conceal his true motives. Regarded by many as the most deceptive false prophet of nineteenth-century America, Joseph Smith is aptly described by Paul's phrase ". . . supposing that gain is godliness" (1 Timothy 6:5).



Utah State Historical Society

John Taylor, who succeeded Brigham Young as president of the church, claimed that he, like Joseph Smith, was a prophet, who "can make scriptures as good as those in the Bible."

From its earliest days, the Latter-day Saints cult was engaged in money-making activities. In Kirtland, Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon purchased several farms and divided them into 4,500 lots. These lots were then sold to the Mormon converts who were pouring into the area. Land speculation ran the prices way up.

The Kirtland temple, dedicated in 1836, was built mostly by volunteer labor, but when it was finished, the church was \$20,000 in debt. As usual when he faced a difficulty, Mr. Smith received a revelation. In this one the Lord allegedly told Mr. Smith to announce to all Mormons: "Thou shalt consecrate all thy properties, that which thou hast, unto me, with a covenant and deed which cannot be broken."

In effect, this meant that any church member had to turn his property over to the church whenever Joseph Smith received a revelation commanding that. As debts piled up, the "prophet" seemed to have these revelations rather frequently. One of them specified that all Mormons who owned "surplus" property in Kirtland were to turn it over to the bishop for the payment of the church's debts.

(The same revelation instituted tithing, which is still required of all members of the church. The motive for "paying" the tithe was not just to obtain the Lord's blessing, however. Joseph Smith believed tithing was necessary in order to escape eternal punishment.)

Even the early practice of confiscating property did not take care of all the debts, so a number of business ventures were started in Kirtland in the name of the church, including a general store, a tannery, and a sawmill. However, all of them lost money, contributing to the debt rather than removing it.

Once during this period, Mr. Smith and some of his followers traveled all the way to Salem, Massachusetts, because a Mormon convert had told them a story about treasure buried in the cellar of a house in that town. Mr. Smith rented a house that seemed the most likely one, but they searched in vain.

Mr. Smith did rise to the occasion with a "revelation" in which the Lord encouraged them not to despair because He would give them the means to pay their debts. However, many of the Kirtland debts were never paid.



Joseph Smith uttered a number of false prophecies in the course of his life. He said that a Mormon temple would be built in Independence, Missouri, before that generation had passed away. Of course, everyone alive in 1832 has long since died, and still no temple has been built there.

The most important church financial scheme in Kirtland was a bank that Mr. Smith and Mr. Rigdon organized. Supposedly begun with four million dollars in capital, the Safety Society Bank had a shaky start because the state refused to charter the institution. Bank notes issued by unchartered banks had been declared illegal, but

the society went ahead and issued over \$100,000 in notes.

The fact that there was no money with which to redeem the bills eventually came to light, and Mr. Smith and Mr. Rigdon were both arrested and convicted under state banking laws. They appealed the case, however, and before the appeal came to trial they left the state and headed for Missouri.

Since that time, the Mormon church has continued to become heavily involved in business undertakings.



Utah State Historical Society

One of the businesses owned by the LDS (Latter-day Saints) church during the early 1900s was the Saltair Resort on Great Salt Lake. It was the cause of considerable controversy because, even though Mormons were forbidden to drink alcoholic beverages, alcohol was sold there.

It is significant that the word “ravening” which Jesus used to describe the false prophet “wolves” is used four other times in the New Testament and in each case is translated “extortioners.” An extortioner is one who takes something by force or misuse of authority, demanding too high a price for it.

Perhaps the clearest example of how a false prophet’s theology is determined by his morality can be found in the infamous Mormon doctrine of “plural marriage,” which was simply another name for the age-old practice of polygamy.

Having more than one wife at a time was strongly condemned by at least half a dozen verses in the *Book of Mormon*, but within a year of its first publication, Joseph Smith reportedly told a group of six married men that it was his will for them to eventually take Indian wives. When later

asked how this could be, he replied that they would do it the same way Abraham took Hagar.

The following year (1832) the prophet received “revelations,” which are recorded in *Doctrine and Covenants*, clearly establishing monogamy as the official Mormon position.

At the same time, Mr. Smith was telling certain church leaders that God had shown him the principle of a plurality of wives, but the time had not come for them to practice it. In fact, he never *publicly* advocated plural marriage, and it was not until eight years after his death that the church began to practice it openly.

However, there are numerous accounts of Joseph Smith’s extramarital relationships with several young women during the early 1830s. Some of these young women lived in the Smith home as servant girls.

In an attempt to squelch the rumors, in 1835 the church reiterated its official stand against polygamy. Shortly after that, the prophet introduced the idea of “eternal marriage,” which would eventually be identical to the doctrine of “plural marriage.”

That fall he also began performing Mormon weddings, although not authorized to do so under state law. The first marriage ceremony in which he officiated was for a woman who was still married to a non-Mormon husband, who had deserted her. Clearly, the “prophet” was placing his own pronouncements above the law of the land and the Bible.



Utah State Historical Society

Emma Smith was mentioned by name in Joseph Smith’s revelation concerning plural marriage, in which she was warned that she would end up in hell if she did not accept the other wives who had been “given” to her philandering husband.

In 1841 Joseph Smith was “sealed” in a secret ceremony to his first official plural wife, but it was not until 1843, according to *Doctrine and Covenants*, that he supposedly received the “Revelation on the Eternity of the Marriage Covenant, Including Plurality of Wives” and was subsequently sealed to his first wife Emma.

By this time opposition to the perverted doctrine had waned considerably within the ranks of the "Saints" themselves, but the more their non-Mormon neighbors heard about it, the more angry they became. As it became more widely known, there was a general outcry of protest from the rest of the country.

Later several Supreme Court rulings against them would ultimately result in an official "reinterpretation" of the doctrine before the end of the nineteenth century. The LDS (Latter-day Saints), however, did not repudiate the principle; they merely acquiesced and temporarily gave up the practice for the sake of expediency.

The 1890 manifesto issued by church president and "prophet" Wilford Woodruff stated that the church was "not teaching polygamy or plural marriage, nor permitting any person to enter into its practice." However, history proves that over the next several years a number of high-ranking Mormon leaders continued to practice polygamy.

Most non-Mormons do not realize that the doctrine of eternal or celestial marriage, even as it is taught today, holds that no man can be saved and exalted in the kingdom of God without being married and that a woman cannot reach perfection unless she is married in the temple. Thus, marriage is supposedly necessary for salvation. This teaching insidiously encourages divorce—if one spouse leaves the LDS church, Mormon elders often encourage the other to divorce in order not to be held back by the "unbeliever."

The belief in polygamy, which is an embarrassment to Mormon missionaries today, has been a problematic doctrine throughout their history. It is ironic that Joseph Smith himself realized shortly before he died how dangerous the situation was becoming. He is quoted as saying privately:

"We are a ruined people. This doctrine of polygamy, or spiritual wife-system, that has been taught and practiced among us, will prove our destruction and overthrow. I have been deceived; it is a curse to mankind, and we shall have to leave the United States soon, unless it can be put down, and its practice stopped."

Orson Pratt, one of the original twelve LDS "apostles," was excommunicated in 1842, ostensibly because he had disagreed with Joseph Smith about polygamy. In actuality, Mr. Pratt had

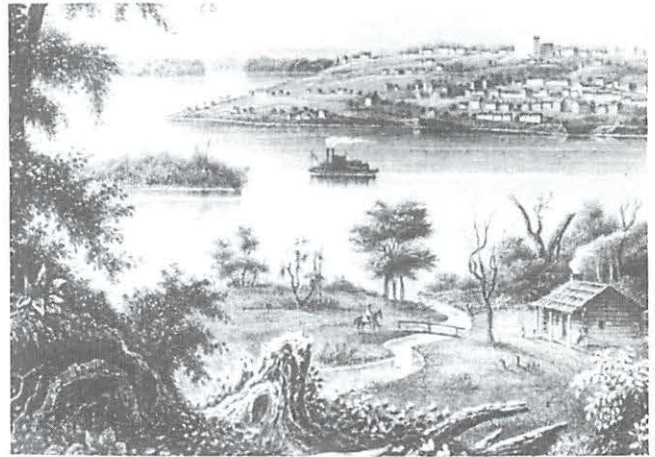
been complaining about Mr. Smith's advances toward Mrs. Pratt.

Eventually, the doctrine of plural marriage, which grew out of Joseph Smith's uncontrolled lust, was what led to his untimely death.

Although Mr. Smith fled from Kirtland because of the financial scandal, public opinion in the community was so antagonistic toward the Mormons because of rumors of their polygamous practices that they probably would soon have had to leave anyway.

Essentially the same thing happened in Missouri. The people of that state were so outraged that they were ready to use force, if necessary, to expel the cultists from their communities.

Thus, in 1840 the fast-growing sect, now numbering around 30,000, relocated in Illinois, where they built a town called Nauvoo.



The Mormon town of Nauvoo, built on the banks of the Mississippi River, was for a time the largest city in the state of Illinois.



Once the Mormons had settled in Illinois, Joseph Smith organized his own militia, naming it the Nauvoo Legion and taking for himself the title of "lieutenant-general."

The Mormons had begun to wield so much political power because of their numbers that Joseph Smith even decided to run for President of the United States in the 1844 election. Yet, all was not well within the Mormon camp. Some who disagreed with Joseph Smith's teaching on polygamy started a newspaper (*The Nauvoo Expositor*) for the purpose of voicing their views.

However, only one issue of the paper made it to press. When that issue appeared in June of 1844, Mr. Smith immediately tried to suppress it and ordered the captain of the legion to "remove the printing establishment" of the newspaper. The officer and some of his men broke into the printing office, destroyed the press, and scrambled the type.

The owners of the paper obtained a warrant for Mr. Smith's arrest, but he was brought before a Mormon-controlled municipal court which simply dismissed the charges. When news of this miscarriage of justice reached other citizens who were already indignant about the polygamous tendencies of the cultists, vigilante groups began forming.

At this point the governor stepped in and took Joseph Smith, his brother Hyrum, and John Taylor into custody. The three were placed in a second-floor cell of the Carthage County jail. On the morning of June 27, 1844, a group of local militiamen forced their way up the stairs and into the cell.

The prisoners fought back with weapons that had been smuggled in to them, but Hyrum was killed and John Taylor was wounded in the first volley of shots. Joseph Smith managed to fire the small pistol he had, killing two men and wounding a third.



The Inside Story of Mormonism, Essar Anderson, Kregel Publications

When an armed mob attacked the jail, Joseph Smith jumped from a second-floor window and was fatally shot.

Mr. Smith, realizing that he had no other hope of escape, tried to jump out the window. He was hit by two bullets as he leaped, and within a few brief moments Joseph Smith was dead.

Many of his followers consider Joseph Smith a martyr, but it is significant to note that the immorality which his heretical teachings were designed to condone became his downfall. The doctrine of polygamy was the culmination of Mr. Smith's attempts to satisfy his immoral appetite, and yet it became the cancer which bred internal controversy within the cult.

In II Peter 2:2-3, we are reminded that the breakdown of this cult is inevitable: *"And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."*

PROJECT

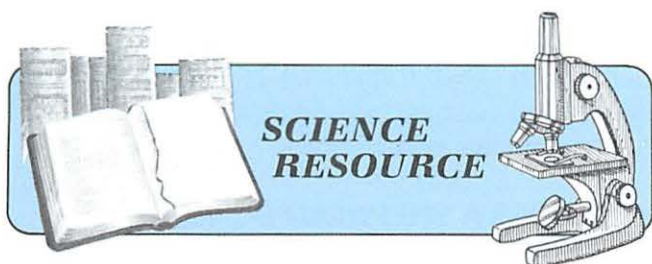
Study the following Scriptural descriptions of false prophets, and relate them to the methods Joseph Smith and his followers used to deceive people. Match two references to each statement below:

Wolves in sheep's clothing...

- ☐ ☐ gain entrance to the fold by looking like sheep rather than wolves.
- ☐ ☐ claim to be leading the flock to greener pastures by their special revelations.
- ☐ ☐ try to deceive the shepherds as well as the sheep.
- ☐ ☐ often isolate their victims from the rest of the flock.
- ☐ ☐ interfere with God's design for relationships.
- ☐ ☐ conceal their true motives until it is too late for the sheep to flee.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Jeremiah 50:6 | 7. Hebrews 13:4 |
| 2. Ezekiel 34:1-10 | 8. II Peter 2:2-3 |
| 3. Acts 20:30 | 9. II Peter 3:17 |
| 4. II Corinthians 4:2 | 10. Jude 1:4 |
| 5. Ephesians 4:14 | 11. Jude 1:18 |
| 6. Titus 1:10-11 | 12. Revelation 22:18-19 |

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



SCIENCE RESOURCE

HOW DO SHEEP AND OTHER ANIMALS RECOGNIZE THEIR OWN?



H. Armstrong Roberts

Sheep are social animals that cannot live alone. Their ability to recognize one another binds a flock together and protects them from their enemies.

It was spring. Most of the ewes already had lambs by their sides. The sheep wandered about the pasture, each ewe nursing its own young whenever the flock stopped to graze.

One particular ewe, however, had no lambs. She had given birth successfully in past years, but never so late in the spring, and never had she become so large. With each passing day, the shepherd watched her more closely. The ewe walked about aimlessly pawing the ground to make a nest in the grass. She even scratched and nipped at her flanks as if the birth was imminent, but no lambs came.

Then suddenly one morning she disappeared. The shepherd knew that her time had finally come. He searched most of the morning before he found her and her lambs protected by tall grass at the edge of the woods. As he called to her, the ewe

recognized his voice and bounded toward him, two healthy twins tottering along beside.

Heading back toward the flock, the shepherd was surprised to hear the faint bleat of a third lamb coming from deeper in the woods. The terrified tremor of its voice told the shepherd that it was hungry, tired, and cold.

Finding the third lamb was not difficult. It was too weak to run, so the shepherd picked up the lamb in his arms and carried it back to its mother. Carefully he laid the lamb next to its brother and sister and waited for the ewe's response.

At first she was curious, sniffing the little lamb from head to tail. But as the lamb struggled to its feet in search of its first meal, the ewe pushed it away. Then because the ewe did not recognize the lamb as her own, she sent the helpless baby reeling with a butt from her broad head.

Quickly the shepherd stepped in to rescue the rejected lamb. He knew that unless he could somehow convince her or another ewe to accept the orphan as one of her own, it would die within a few hours.

1 SHEEP RECOGNIZE THEIR OWN BY THE WATER AND BLOOD OF BIRTH.

It is not uncommon for ewes with multiple births to reject one of their lambs. Because multiple births may come at 25- to 30-minute intervals and care of the firstborn lasts for an hour or more, the ewe may be so occupied with her first lamb that she does not even notice the presence of others.

During that first hour, a mother sheep shows an intense interest in grooming and licking her lamb. This intimate contact forms a bond that allows a ewe to recognize her own and prompts her to reject all others.



H. Armstrong Roberts

The intimate act of grooming and licking a newborn creates a bond between a ewe and a lamb that binds them together for a lifetime.

Researchers believe that hormonal surges of estrogen initiate the bonding process. They have found that estrogen triggers a powerful attraction to the birth fluids that soak the wool of a newborn lamb. In fact, the attraction is so intense that a ewe may actually attempt to steal the wet lambs of other sheep if they are unattended by their own mothers.

However, once these fluids dry out and the wool of a newborn becomes fluffy, the reminders of the birth lose their attractive scent. If a lamb dries out before its mother is aware of its presence, she is likely to reject it. In some instances the rejection rate of twins and triplets may exceed 25 percent of the lambs born. This creates a difficult situation for shepherds whose livelihood depends on saving each lamb.

To foster a rejected lamb, a shepherd takes advantage of a ewe's attraction to birth fluids. He can usually coax a ewe into accepting an orphan by wrapping it in clothing that he has soaked in the ruptured membranes (placenta) of a previous birth.

Using a tight-fitting jacket of burlap made especially for this purpose, a shepherd clothes any rejected lamb in the smelly afterbirth. Then the shepherd offers the stranger to a ewe that has just given birth. The attraction to the fluids is so great that it causes the ewe to lick and groom the orphan as if it were her very own. Within an hour or so, the ewe usually accepts the orphan and allows it to nurse freely.

then frozen. They found that 100 percent of the ewes tested accepted strangers that were clothed in the reminders of their birth.

HOW DOES A SHEPHERD BOND AN ORPHANED LAMB?

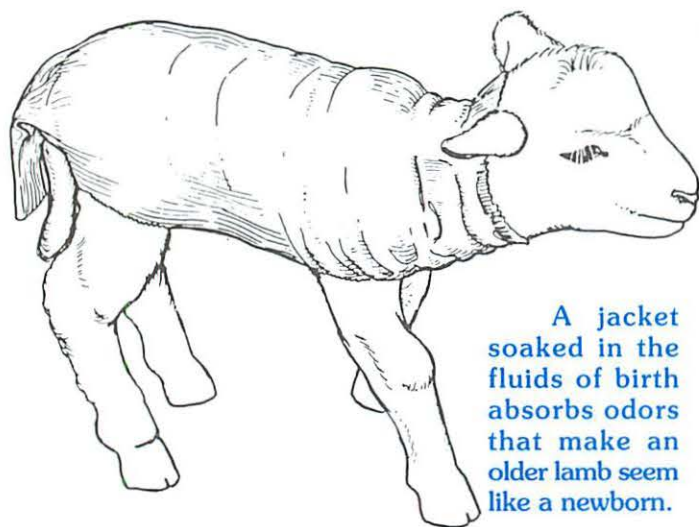
To save the rejected lamb in the opening story, the shepherd returned to the tall grass at the edge of the woods and saturated his own cloak with what was left of the afterbirth (placenta) and discarded embryonic sacs. Then covering the orphaned lamb with the reminders of its birth, he offered the lamb to another ewe.

Within minutes, the prospective mother began licking and grooming the strange lamb. By the end of the day, they had bonded so strongly that the orphan could nurse right alongside the ewe's own lamb.

A false prophet seeks acceptance by clothing himself in the appearance of a new birth. Without such a covering, false prophets are likely to be rejected.

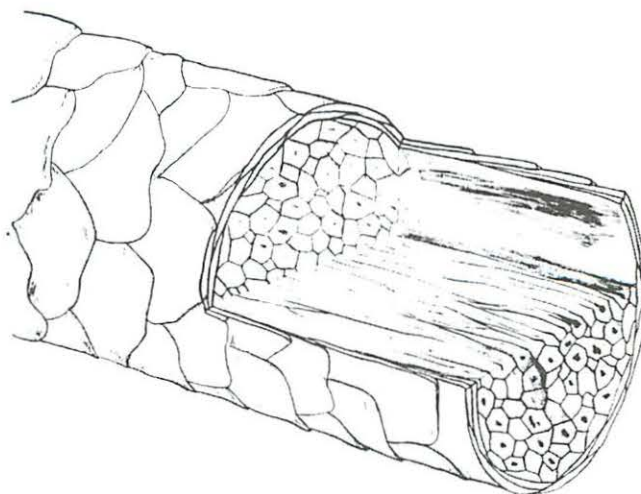
2 SHEEP RECOGNIZE THEIR OWN BY THE FRAGRANCE OF THEIR COVERINGS.

If birth fluids attract the attention of a ewe, it is the fragrance of a lamb's wool that maintains the bond and allows a mother to identify her own. Once the reminders of birth dry up and lose their scent, sebaceous glands located at the base of each



"Husbandry Practices in Relation to Maternal Offspring Behavior." G. Alexander, Division of Animal Production, Blacktown, Australia

Some shepherds prepare these jackets ahead of time and freeze them in anticipation of rejected lambs during the lambing season. Freezing and thawing does not seem to affect the potency of the fluids to stimulate bonding behavior. In fact, one research project tested a whole flock of sheep with clothing that had been soaked in birth fluids and



Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota Wool Growers Association

Wool fibers are covered with scales that make them especially suited for retaining scent.

wool fiber produce an aromatic oil that gives a lamb its own unique scent.

During the bonding process, ewes “imprint” on this scent, which means they “remember” the scent so well that they can distinguish their own lambs from all others. For the most part, the fragrance cannot be covered up or washed away, but it can be transferred. Shepherds have successfully transferred the fragrance of a lamb by simply covering one lamb with the “clothing” of another.

Shepherds know that covering a lamb with a piece of burlap for as little as twenty-four hours allows the burlap to absorb enough oil from the lamb’s wool that it smells like the lamb itself. To transfer the fragrance, the shepherd simply removes the burlap coat, turns it inside out, and places it on another lamb.

If a shepherd wishes to foster an orphaned lamb, but has no access to fresh or frozen birth fluid, he can cause a ewe to accept a stranger by transferring the scent of one of her own lambs to the orphan. This covers the strange lamb with a familiar scent to which the ewe is already bonded.

If the shepherd removes the ewe’s natural lamb temporarily, the acceptance rate is even higher. However, the strength of the new bonding is often so great that there may be difficulty getting a ewe to accept her own lamb after she has bonded to the stranger. To overcome this problem, the shepherd must remove the burlap coat from the foster lamb and place it on the ewe’s own lamb.



H. Armstrong Roberts

The most intimate contact between a ewe and her lamb involves nursing. However, a ewe accepts almost any lamb that is covered with the fragrance of one of her own. This lamb wears the skin of a stepsister that died at birth. In fact, orphaned goats, deer fawns, and even wolves have been fostered in similar ways.

Because the clothing then has the scent of both lambs, the natural lamb is acceptable once more.

It is not sufficient for a false prophet simply to mask the error of his ways. For complete acceptance, he must clothe himself in the appearance of righteousness.

3 SHEEP RECOGNIZE THEIR OWN BY THEIR VOICES AND THEIR HEADS.

The bonding process among sheep is an intimate one that requires close contact. In fact, mothers separated from their lambs by even a few feet often fail to recognize their own. However, once a bond is established, other sensory clues extend the distance at which a mother and lamb can identify each other.

By the age of three weeks, ewes can usually locate their young by both voice and sight. For example, in a research test, lambs were hidden in covered pens while their mothers were turned loose in an open arena. Within seconds, each ewe was standing beside the pen of her own lamb. Only the sound of the lamb’s voice directed its mother to the right lamb.



H. Armstrong Roberts

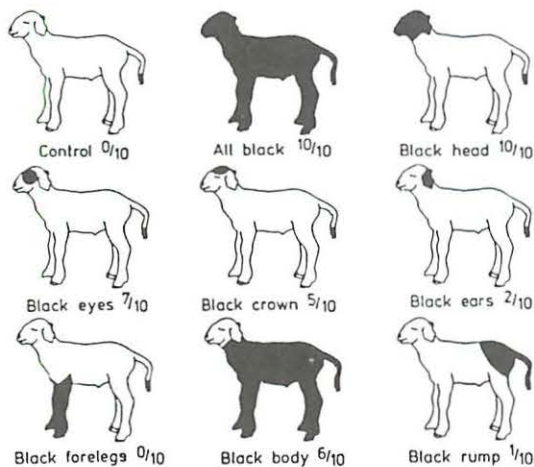
Like humans, sheep have unique voices. No two are alike. Not only does a ewe learn to recognize the voices of her lambs, but the lambs also recognize the voice of their mother. If a lamb wanders away, a simple call brings it running back to her side.

Ewes also learn to recognize their lambs by sight. In particular they learn to recognize the conformation of their lambs’ heads. Researchers studying the role of vision disguised several lambs by blackening parts of their bodies. When first confronted with their own blackened offspring,

most ewes initially ran toward their bleating lambs, drawn by the sound of their voices. However, as they discovered that the lambs looked quite different from what they had expected, the ewes turned and fled.

As the lambs continued to cry out to their mothers, the ewes ran in circles with their lambs in hot pursuit. The ewes recognized the sound but were confused by the sight. Some ewes butted their own blackened lambs when they attempted to nurse.

Next the researchers tested the responses of the ewes to partial disguises. In various cases, only the heads, legs, or tails were blackened. Surprisingly even minor changes in the color of eyes, ears, or crowns prompted ewes to reject their lambs. On the other hand, major changes in the bodies, legs, tails, or rumps did not seem to fool the ewes at all.



"Maternal and Neonatal Behavior," Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice, Vol. 3, No. 2, July 1987

Disguising the heads, eyes, and ears of newborn lambs drew the most dramatic responses from ewes. Numbers show the relative power of the deception.

After a false prophet is accepted, he may enlarge his sphere of recognition by speaking out and imitating the headship of Christ.

4 TURKEYS RECOGNIZE THEIR OWN BY THE VOICES OF THEIR YOUNG.

Mother turkeys are exceptional mothers. They are loving, watchful, and protective, spending almost every waking moment tending, warming, cleaning, and sheltering their young. This mothering instinct is triggered by the "cheep-cheep" sounds made by their chicks. As long as a chick "cheeps," a mother turkey recognizes it as one of her own.

In fact, a turkey will mother any object that cheeps, regardless of what it looks like, smells like, or feels like. One researcher graphically illustrated this by planting a small tape recorder inside a stuffed bobcat. Normally bobcats and turkeys are staunch enemies. A mother turkey will viciously attack, peck, and claw at a bobcat to protect her young.

However, when the stuffed bobcat approached a mother turkey making "cheeping" noises, the turkey not only accepted the oncoming bobcat, but actually gathered it under her wings. Moments later when the tape ended, the puzzled turkey vented its fury in an all-out attack on the intruder.

In a similar experiment, researchers presented kittens, puppies, and balloons to a mother turkey. As long as the objects made the correct sound, she accepted them as her own. This is especially surprising because turkeys have exceptional eyesight and are extremely cautious. Yet, wild turkeys embrace even an enemy when that enemy mimics the familiar sound of their own young.



Keystone—Paul Lemmons from Frank W. Lane

Like wild turkeys, chickens may also adopt unlikely orphans. By presenting these kittens along with the right sounds, researchers tricked the hen into caring for a unique set of twins.

By responding to the sound of a "cheep," turkeys are almost always correct—if it sounds like a turkey, it probably is a turkey. In natural surroundings, there is little danger of a deceptive bobcat carrying a tape recording. However, hunters have learned to imitate the various calls of turkeys and can easily draw an unsuspecting tom or hen within easy shooting range.

False prophets may be accepted for what they say rather than who they are.

5 GROUPERS RECOGNIZE THE APPROACH OF A FRIEND BY THE WIGGLE OF ITS TAIL.

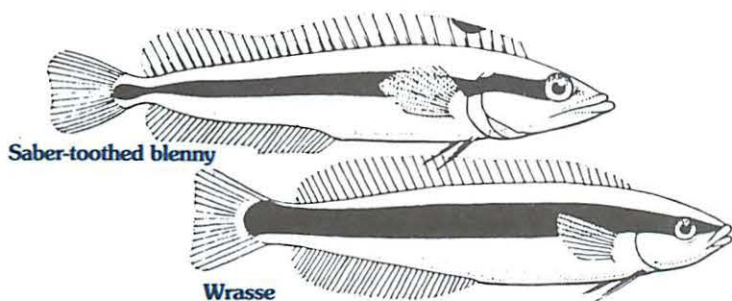
The harmless wrasse is a small fish that shares a symbiotic relationship with the giant grouper of the sea. Groupers may grow to be six feet in length, weighing hundreds of pounds. The wrasse provides both janitorial and dental services for its imposing neighbor by cleaning its gills and brushing its teeth.

When the wrasse approaches the grouper, it performs an undulating dance which the grouper recognizes. The grouper then relaxes and floats open-mouthed without moving. This position allows the wrasse to pick off fungus and other parasites attached to the big fish's gills and even to swim between the grouper's large jaws to pick decaying food from the teeth and gums.

In this mutualistic relationship, the big grouper is cleaned and liberated from harmful pests while the tiny wrasse obtains an easy dinner.

There is another fish, called the saber-toothed blenny, that looks very much like the wrasse. Normally the grouper devours small fish that come too close to its mighty jaws. However, because of its resemblance to the wrasse, the blenny can approach boldly. With a wiggle of its tail, the blenny imitates the undulating dance of the wrasse.

These movements invariably convince the grouper to relax and open its mouth. Like a wolf in sheep's clothing, the blenny swims tranquilly into the grouper's mouth and rips away a mouthful of flesh. Darting away before the startled victim can react, the blenny then begins searching for another easy victim to deceive.



The Hunters, Dr. Philip Whitfield, Simon and Schuster, Art by Richard Orr

The saber-toothed blenny is like a wolf in sheep's clothing. Its deceptive imitation conceals its rapacious intentions.

False prophets may cry out for peace in order to achieve their own ends.

6 CRANES RECOGNIZE THEIR OWN BY THEIR FIRST IMPRESSION OF LIFE.



Nina Leen

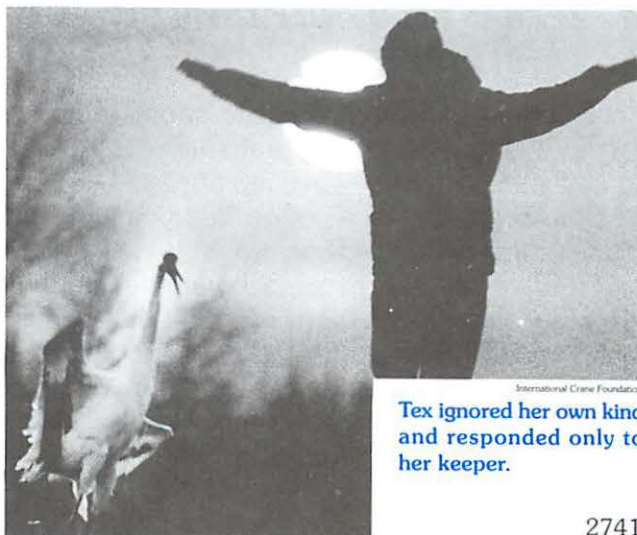
Goslings, cranes, and condors are noted for identifying with their first impressions of life. In this case, they accept the man as their parent.

When birds hatch, they form a visual picture of whatever they see first. Normally that picture is a parent. However, in some instances when eggs are incubated artificially or a nestling is orphaned, chicks "imprint" on the wrong thing.

Imprinting causes a bird to follow, beg, seek shelter from, and otherwise treat the imprinted object as its own parent. Researchers have demonstrated that this imprinting is strictly visual; it has nothing to do with the scent, sound, or texture of the object.

Cranes reared in captivity, for example, imprint on their keepers rather than on other cranes. One particular crane, named Tex, became so completely imprinted on the director of the center where she lived that she did not show any interest in other cranes. She rejected all other males, preferring instead to remain faithful to her human "parent."

Unfortunately Tex was an endangered whooping crane whose eggs were very valuable.

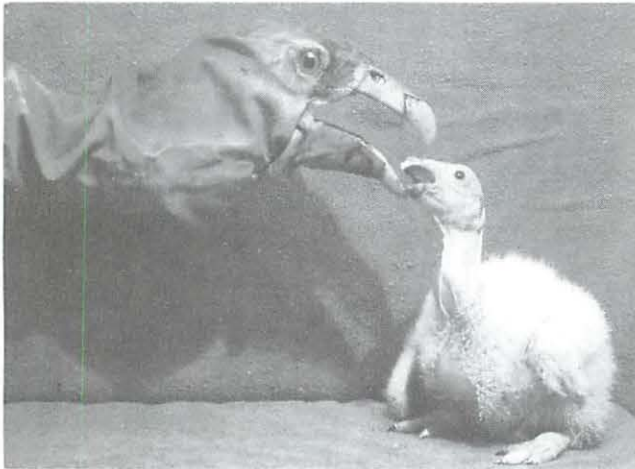


International Crane Foundation

Tex ignored her own kind and responded only to her keeper.

Her lack of interest in other cranes meant that she would not reproduce her own kind. However, the director tricked Tex into laying eggs by imitating the dances of other whooping cranes. For seven years he practiced the intricate movements of other cranes until finally Tex was convinced. Tex responded to the memories of her first impression of life and successfully hatched an egg.

In order to prevent the same confusion with Tex's own young, keepers carefully avoided contact with the new chick. By feeding it with puppets designed to resemble a real whooping crane and by playing recordings of cranes' own songs, they taught the chick to recognize its own kind.



©Zoological Society of San Diego

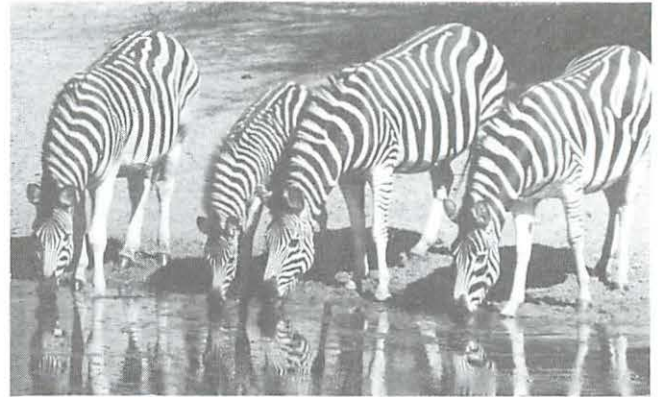
California condor chicks learn to recognize their parents by sight. Being fed by a puppet prevents the young from mistakenly imprinting on their keepers.

False prophets prey upon new and immature Christians.

7 ZEBRAS RECOGNIZE THEIR OWN BY THEIR STRIPES.

Zebras exhibit much the same bonding patterns with their young that sheep and other hoofed animals follow. They are attracted to birth fluids and bond to the scent of their young within their first few hours of life.

However, zebras also have the distinct advantage of unique patterns of stripes that identify each individual. These stripes can be recognized by mares at quite a distance, allowing the young to range far away from their mothers while still maintaining visual contact.



Leonard Lee Rue III

A zebra's stripes are as unique as a person's fingerprints. To zebras, they are as easy to distinguish as different-colored clothing worn by a pair of identical twins would be to us.

Zebra stripes also serve to confuse predators who range in size from lions to tiny, biting flies. The maze of stripes created by a herd of zebras prevents their enemies from distinguishing one individual from another. Because both lions and flies search for individuals, the combined pattern of stripes thwarts their attempts to zero in on one victim.

False prophets stand out to those who are of God, yet they remain hidden to those who can see only from the world's perspective.

PROJECT

Match the following verses with the ways that false prophets attempt to deceive. Find one verse that illustrates each of the seven headings of the Resource.

Mark 13:21–22

Ephesians 4:14

Romans 16:17–18

John 3:3–7

John 8:41–47

Micah 3:5

Ezekiel 22:27–28



Leonard Lee Rue III

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



**AUTHORITY
THROUGH
ACCURACY**

HOW ARE THE PRACTICES OF FALSE PROPHETS USED IN THE MARKET- PLACE TO DECEIVE CUSTOMERS?



Those who use deception in business practices begin a juggling act that only becomes more and more complicated. A collapse is inevitable, no matter how skilled the deceiver is. In the process, many are damaged.

God requires openness and honesty in the “weights and measures” of business transactions. Those who deceive their neighbors in the matter of purchases are only heaping to themselves riches with trouble.

Read the following accounts of deceptive business practices. After each account, determine how the methods of false prophets are being employed in the marketplace.

HOW DID A GIFT TO A POTENTIAL BUYER INCREASE SALES?

In an experiment conducted a number of years ago, when a bottle of soda cost only a dime, researchers asked two people to complete a simple task. However, only one of the two was actually the subject. The other was a research assistant named “Joe” who helped with the experiment.

While the two were carrying out their simple task, Joe (the research assistant) left the room for a short break. In a few minutes he returned with two bottles of Coca-Cola®. He said to his partner, “I asked the supervisor if I could get myself a Coke® and he said it was okay, so I bought one for you, too.” He did this with half of the experimenters.

With the other half of the subjects, Joe simply returned without any soda. In every other aspect of the experiment, Joe’s behavior was the same.

In both cases, when the simple task was finished, Joe asked his co-worker to do him a favor. He explained that he was selling raffle tickets for a new car and that he would win a fifty-dollar prize if he sold the most tickets.

The researchers found that Joe sold twice as many raffle tickets to those subjects who had received a Coke® as he did to those who had not.

IS IT A DECEPTIVE PRACTICE TO GIVE WITH THE MOTIVE OF RECEIVING?

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT GIVING IN ORDER TO RECEIVE?

Jesus made it very clear that if we give with the wrong motives, we receive no reward from Him. (See Matthew 6:1.) “Secret” giving with the right motives is further explained in the following passage.

“ . . . When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just” (Luke 14:12–14).

HOW DID A FALSE CULT SPREAD ITS DECEPTION IN THE MARKETPLACE BY GIVING WITH THE MOTIVE OF GREED?

By pinning a flower to a person's jacket and refusing to take it back, members of a false cult hoped to prompt a purchase or donation in return. Even though the gift was unwanted and was often thrown away within seconds of having been given, the method of giving in order to receive prompted recipients to give to the sect millions of dollars against their better judgment.

The deceptive ploy was so effective that members of the sect typically retrieved unwanted books and flowers from wastebaskets and gave them away again. The recycled gift retained its power to manipulate in spite of its crumpled or wilted appearance.



The Washington Star, Harry Goodman

The practice of giving a gift with the motive of receiving more in return is contrary to the motive of genuine love, which is to give to basic needs without thought of personal gain.

IS IT SCRIPTURAL FOR A CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION TO OFFER "FREE GIFTS" IN HOPES OF RECEIVING DONATIONS?

The Apostle Paul tells us to be followers of him, even as he was a follower of Christ. It would be wise, therefore, to follow his example in the matter of raising support for a ministry.

Paul did not look to the people to whom he ministered for his personal support. He earned the money he needed or received unsolicited offerings from those to whom he had previously ministered.

"Neither did we eat any man's bread for naught; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

"Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat" (II Thessalonians 3:8-10).

Paul was very aware that he would be accused of giving out the Gospel with the motive of financial reward, and indeed he was accused of that very thing. He answered his accusers with the following facts:

"And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

"As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia" (II Corinthians 11:9-10).

Although Paul supported himself and his own ministry ventures, he did urge the Gentile churches to take up an offering for the Jews in Jerusalem. He took special measures, however, to demonstrate that none of these funds went to himself.

God wants us to look to Him for the supply of funds, not to the Christian public, fund-raising organizations, or clever emotional appeals.

If we give to the needs of people, we should look not to them for a return, but only to God. God's provision of further funds or lack of funds would indicate if He wants the ministry to continue. God will often use unexpected sources to provide funds so we will not forget that *He* is the "giver of every good and perfect gift."

HOW DID INFLATED SALES PROPOSALS CAUSE CUSTOMERS TO OVERSPEND?

A certain salesgirl learned that she could sell more cookies if she started out by asking potential customers to buy ten boxes. If she met with resistance, she promptly conceded that it would be all right if they bought only five boxes.

Surprisingly, most of her customers responded by buying the five boxes instead of the one or two that they otherwise might have bought.

When the salesgirl asked people to buy ten boxes of cookies from her, she was clearly stating what they perceived as her expectations of them. Most people have a strong fear of rejection and therefore want to fulfill the expectations others have of them.

The forcefulness of exaggerated expectations was further demonstrated in the following study.

HOW WERE PEOPLE COERCED INTO SERVICE BY AN INFLATED REQUEST?

In a carefully designed experiment, researchers approached a number of young adults and asked them if they would be willing to chaperon a group of juvenile delinquents on a day-long trip to the zoo. Eighty-three percent of them refused.

A second group in this controlled study was asked if they would be willing to spend two hours each week counseling juvenile delinquents for a minimum of two years. Almost everyone refused.

Then the researchers asked if they would be willing to chaperon a group of juvenile delinquents on a day-long trip to the zoo. Fifty percent of the individuals agreed to do this.



New York Convention and Visitors Bureau

Young adults reluctantly accompanied juvenile delinquents to the zoo as an alternative to a two-year commitment of counseling them.

IS AN APPEAL LETTER WHICH SUGGESTS LARGE GIFTS OF MONEY A FORM OF COERCION?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

HOW DID SALESMEN PRESSURE CUSTOMERS INTO SPENDING MORE BY APPEALING TO A HUMAN WEAKNESS?

A well-known sales managers' magazine reported that pool table sales doubled in one week after salesmen began using a new strategy on customers.

Instead of advertising their least expensive models and then trying to promote more expensive ones after the customer walked into the store, one company advertised its most expensive model and showed it to customers first, regardless of what pool table the customers were actually looking for.

During the time that salesmen showed the low end of the line and worked up, the average sale was \$550 per table. However, during the time that salesmen introduced customers to the more expensive models and then showed them the lower priced tables, sales soared to over \$1,000 per table.

By showing their customers the most expensive pool tables first, they created dissatisfaction with the cheaper models. They also appealed to the customers to have a status symbol in their homes.

The basic appeal of these salesmen, however, is the tendency of human nature to be involved with material possessions.

"When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?" (Ecclesiastes 5:11).

WHEN A CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION OFFERS AN EXPENSIVE LUXURY ITEM, IS IT USING THE APPEAL OF A STATUS SYMBOL?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

HOW DID DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING FORCE CUSTOMERS TO BUY MORE THAN THEY HAD INTENDED?

Toy manufacturers know that their peak sales season is between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many customers buy toys to fill their Christmas lists—especially for their own children and grandchildren.

One toy company designed a scheme that would force customers to buy additional toys during the low season—after Christmas. Their scheme involved advertising certain toys to children, who then begged their parents to get them. The parents would try to find the toys between Thanksgiving and Christmas, but they would be unable to, because the manufacturer purposely limited the supply.

Following Christmas, the company would stock the stores with the advertised toys and then advertise to parents that they should buy the toys in order to fulfill the promises that they made to their children.

The net result was a huge profit for the toy company as many parents bought more toys than they had planned.

DO FALSE RELIGIONS USE SIMILAR DECEPTION BY THE DOCTRINE OF DOING GOOD WORKS TO EARN OR MAINTAIN SALVATION?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

HOW ARE PEOPLE CONDITIONED BY SMALL CONCESSIONS TO MAKE MAJOR UNWISE DECISIONS?



Irvin A. Blatt, Builders

What rationale could possibly be used to talk a family into putting an unsightly sign such as this in their front yard? The answer is, "Just a little concession to a small sign."

Two California researchers found that getting a "foot in the door" was all that was needed to elicit compliance with some outrageous requests. They sent a volunteer door-to-door asking homeowners to display a large, poorly lettered sign saying "DRIVE CAREFULLY"

in their front yards. Only 17 percent agreed to the request.

However, in a similar neighborhood, the same volunteer convinced 76 percent of the residents to display the unsightly sign.

The reason for the dramatic increase in positive responses was an earlier visit from a different volunteer. That volunteer had asked the same group of people to display a three-inch-square sign saying simply, "BE A SAFE DRIVER." It was such a small request that almost everyone complied.

When the second volunteer returned two weeks later, these same homeowners were remarkably willing to put the huge, unsightly sign in their front yards.

HOW CAN SIGNING AN INNOCENT DOCUMENT BECOME BAIT?

In another study, researchers used an innocent-looking petition to enlist commitment to public service. They sent a volunteer worker door-to-door asking residents to sign a petition to "keep California beautiful." Almost everyone signed.

Then, about two weeks later, another volunteer worker returned asking these "civic-minded" residents to allow a large "DRIVE CAREFULLY" sign to be erected on their front lawns. Almost half of those who signed the earlier petition also consented to the ugly billboard.

Among the control group, the acceptance rate was almost nil. Apparently the act of signing the petition generated a commitment to civic duty that brought about actions that previously would have been unthinkable.



Erving Galloway

The appropriateness of signing a petition for the environment and the inappropriateness of displaying an unsightly billboard illustrates the importance of testing every spirit.

**DOES SIGNING FOR A CREDIT CARD CONDITION
A PERSON FOR MAJOR DEBT?**

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

**HOW DO UNSCRUPULOUS SALESMEN
TRAP CUSTOMERS BY THEIR OWN
HANDWRITING?**

Many companies have discovered the powerful motivation of writing something down. The aim of an essay contest of "25 words or less" is to get as many people as possible to go on record as stating that a certain product is good. These companies have found that the simple act of putting a statement in writing secures a lasting commitment to the product.

By finding praiseworthy features to write about, entrants subsequently believe what they have written. In fact, entrants in the contest, whether they win or not, are more likely to buy the product simply because they have praised it in their own written words.

When the legislatures of various states passed "cooling off" laws that allowed customers to cancel a sale several days after purchasing an item, many high-pressure "compliance professionals" found their profits plummet. Customers canceled in droves after they had a chance to think about how they had been talked into the purchase.

To counteract the new laws, companies cut the number of cancellations dramatically by simply having the customer, rather than the salesman, fill out the sales agreement. The very act of writing out the orders in their own handwriting produced such a powerful commitment that it prevented customers from backing out of their contracts, even though they had been pressured into signing them in the first place.

**IS THE PRACTICE OF HAVING A NEW CHRISTIAN
WRITE OUT HIS TESTIMONY AN APPROPRIATE
PROCEDURE TO ENCOURAGE COMMITMENT?**

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

**HOW DOES ACCEPTING A BIG BARGAIN
PREDISPOSE YOU TO A BAD DEAL?**

There is a procedure used by unscrupulous salesmen that is particularly effective on unsuspecting customers. In the industry it is called "lowballing."

Lowballing offers a prospective customer an exceptional deal. The price or the offer quoted by the salesman sounds too good to be true, and in fact, it is not true. The salesman has no intention of closing the deal at this initial price. The purpose of "lowballing" is only to create a commitment to buy.

Salesmen know that once a customer makes a commitment to buy, they can later change the price or the conditions to suit their own purposes.

In the case of automobile salesmen, lowballing often takes the form of an inflated trade-in offer that gets deflated after the customer agrees to buy. Or it may take the form of a tough sales manager who rejects the salesman's contract at the last minute. Sometimes the deception takes the form of a mistake that the accountant finds after a customer has left with the car.

It seems incredible that people could be duped by such tactics, but it happens. Once a customer makes a commitment to buy, he begins justifying the decision, often creating reason after reason why he has made the right move. Then, even though the salesman makes major changes in the deal, the customer finds other reasons to go through with the deal anyway.



When a deceptive salesman offers a too-good-to-be-true bargain to a customer, he is appealing to the basic instinct of getting something for nothing. By building on the motive of greed, the salesman is then able to convince the customer to go through with the deal, even though the conditions have been changed.

HOW DOES A PLANTED RESPONSE INFLUENCE AN ENTIRE CROWD?

The principle of social proof is one in which we look to the actions of others to discern what is right and wrong. Rather than looking to the absolute authority of Scripture, deceptive wolves appeal to the standard that “everyone else is doing it.” Profiteers who see people as weak-willed imitators lie in wait to deceive those who merely follow the crowd.



Claquer (KLAA-kay) is a French word meaning “to clap or applaud.” In the past, some television shows used special audiences that laughed and applauded on cue. The sound tracks which those audiences produced influenced TV audiences across the country. Today, claquing is a multi-million-dollar business which supplies “laugh tracks” to TV comedies.

These facts are dramatically illustrated in a procedure known as *claquing*. Claquing began in 1820 when a pair of Paris operagoers decided to make a business of applause. They hired themselves out to opera houses to laugh, cheer, and clap. They were so effective at stimulating audience responses to an opera that they formed a company called L'Assurance des Succès Dramatiques. They literally assured the success of a dramatic performance by their well-timed applause.

Before long, the art of claquing became an established tradition. Its practitioners marketed a variety of styles and gimmicks. Some excelled at titters, chuckles, or belly laughs, while other claquers promoted their “bravos,” “encores,” and “whistles.”

Claquers found no need to disguise their canned responses. In fact, they sat in the same seats

night after night, repeating their same artificial applause. They were so bold that they even advertised their services openly in the local papers. Yet their laughter and applause was infectious. They brought success even to the most poorly performed theater, luring audience after audience to their feet at the end of a performance.

The deception of social proof is especially effective when something is marginal or questionable. When something is clearly right or wrong, most people make up their own minds. However, when something is unclear, people often look to others for proof. The members of a group look to see how others are going to respond before they commit themselves. Just one person can tip the scales by applauding or laughing. The rest of the group merely follows along.

HOW DOES A LIKABLE SALESMAN POWERFULLY INFLUENCE CUSTOMERS TO BUY?

A world-famous car salesman had a simple formula for his success: “Offer a fair price and be likable.” While many others offered fair prices, there was something about this man that enabled him to win the title “Number-One Car Salesman” eleven years in a row—from 1966 to 1977. During that time he sold an average of five cars or trucks every day he worked.

His secret was simple. He told people that he liked them. In fact, every month he sent out 13,000 greeting cards to his former customers, imprinted with the simple message, “I Like You.” The card changed each month, but the three little words never varied. The combined power of a likable person who liked them brought in customers by the hundreds.

IS IT NECESSARY TO TEST THE SPIRIT OF A TEACHER WITH PHYSICAL CHARISMA MORE THAN THAT OF OTHER TEACHERS?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



HOW ARE FALSE PROPHETS USING MUSIC TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DELINQUENCY OF MINORS?



Bible Art Series, Standard Publishing, Cincinnati

Israel became a delinquent nation when it was at Mt. Sinai. A significant contributing factor to that delinquency was the wrong kind of music.

"The noise of war . . ."

Before Moses went up to Mt. Sinai, the people publicly pledged their obedience to God by saying, ". . . All that the Lord hath spoken we will do" (Exodus 19:8).

While Moses was in the Mount, the whole nation became delinquent. Among the factors that God listed as causing the delinquency was confusing music.

The music was so confusing that initially, neither Moses or Joshua recognized it. They first thought it was "a noise of war in the camp." As they came closer they discerned, ". . . It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing [Hebrew - 'ana] do I hear" (Exodus 32:18).

The word 'ana is not the same word that David used in Psalm 40:3 for a new song unto the

Lord. The word 'ana denotes "affliction; pain; defilement." It is the same word used for "afflicted" in Deuteronomy 26:6 to describe enemies afflicting God's people.

The sounds that came from delinquent Israel were accompanied by false worship and sensual passions. For these sins, God's wrath was upon His people, and He would have totally destroyed them were it not for the intercession of Moses.

"The sound of rebellion . . ."

One of the basic elements of rock music is repetition. Such repetition has a hypnotic effect upon its listeners.

From the testimony of the rock musicians themselves, we get such statements as the following: "You can hypnotize people with the music, and when you get them at their weakest point, you can preach into the subconscious what you want to say."

(Jimi Hendrix, *Life* magazine, October 3, 1969)

Another witness states, "Rock music in particular has been demonstrated to be both powerful and addictive, as well as capable of producing a subtle form of hypnosis in which the subject, though not completely under trance, is still in a highly subjective state."

(John Fuller, *Are the Kids All Right?*)

There is no denying that the rhythms and volume of rock music were specifically designed to be the sound of the "counterculture," symbolizing the rebellion of youth, not only to their parents, but to the whole "establishment" of authority.

This "badge of identity" was built into the sound itself.

The "badge of identity" in rock music is totally opposite of and hostile to God's "badge of identity" for Christian youth. (See Ephesians 6:1-3.)

"The law being violated . . ."

Contributing to the delinquency of a minor is a violation of criminal law:

"Any person who knowingly or willfully causes, aids or encourages any boy or girl to be or to become a delinquent child, or who knowingly or willfully does acts which directly tend to render any such child so delinquent is guilty of the Class A misdemeanor of contributing to the delinquency of children."

(Illinois law, chap. 23, §2361a)

Definitions of terms:

In order to understand the full application of this law, it is important to know the legal definition of each term: (from *Black's Law Dictionary*)

• **Knowingly**

With knowledge; consciously; intelligently; willfully; intentionally

A person acts knowingly when he is aware that his conduct is even similar to something which would bring about potential consequences.

• **Willfully**

Proceeding from a volitional choice; done for bad purpose; stubbornly; obstinately

Willfulness is a decision to act with a careless disregard as to whether or not the one taking action has the right to do so.

• **Cause**

That which in some manner is accountable for a condition that brings about an effect or that produces a cause for the resultant action or state

Legally, a cause is anything which in any way contributes to the result.

• **Aid**

To support; help; assist or strengthen; act in cooperation with; supplement the efforts of others

The legal definition for "aid" leaves little to no room for neutrality. Mere co-existence tends to indicate approval.

• **Encourage**

To give courage to; to inspire; to embolden; to raise confidence; to advise

In law, this term places equal responsibility upon those who in any way support an act as those who do the act.

• **Child**

Individuals from birth through the teenage years

• **Acts**

The expressions or external manifestations of the actor's will

The arts, including music, are commonly referred to as the ultimate forms of personal expression.

• **Delinquency**

Failure; omission; violation of law or duty

A delinquent child is one who engages in any of the following acts:

- ☐ violates federal, state, or local law
- ☐ runs away without just cause
- ☐ violates a lawful court order
- ☐ has been indecent or immoral
- ☐ is truant or defiant of school rules
- ☐ is not under parental control

HOW DOES "ROCK MUSIC" CONTRIBUTE TO THE DELINQUENCY OF MINORS?

Rock music is a vital issue that needs to be understood from a legal perspective. It can be proven to be directly associated with delinquent behavior by means of its origin and function.

1 The Origin of the "Rock Beat"

The characteristic offbeat in today's rock music has been traced to the Satanic rituals in the jungles of West Africa. It was this type of drumbeat which certain tribe members were specially trained for in order to open the people to demonic control. It was used to accompany all manner of diabolical perversion and gross immorality.

During the sixteenth century, greedy European merchants brought the African slave trade to America, and many of the slaves which came over to this country relied heavily upon their music to express themselves, as it was often the only reminder they had of their homes and families on the other side of the world.

Over the years, music brought to America from other parts of the earth began to vary the melody and harmony of the music derived from the African-jungle culture, yet in some cases the ritualistic drumbeat from Africa remained hidden in the baseline of the blending "American" music.

Although many countries brought musical expressions which have become destructive elements of today's rock music, the definitive characteristic of rock music—the unnatural, addictive offbeat used in the worship rituals of tribal Africa—has been retained.

In the early 1950s, American descendants of the African influence were the first to reintroduce the "rock beat" to popularity through new strains of blues and rhythm-and-blues music. Their style was soon picked up by country-western

singers as well and heralded the rebellion, immorality, and drug culture of the sixties.

It was at this time that the "Contemporary Christian" music movement began. "Contemporary Christian" music rapidly gained popularity throughout the nation as it often followed a Christian theme but compromised Christian standards to obtain a wider hearing.

The most popular "Contemporary Christian" songs of that day diluted the message of the Gospel and the call to holy living in an attempt to express Christ's love. These songs quickly became favorites in colleges and churches across the country and are considered the forerunners of much of today's "Christian" music, although they were much more mild and seemingly more acceptable than today's "Contemporary Christian" music.



Bible Art Series, Standard Publishing, Cincinnati

David's attempt to use the world's methods in worshipping the Lord resulted in bitterness and death. He learned to ". . . sing unto the Lord a new song . . ." (Psalm 96:1). God wanted Scripture to be clear on this point; therefore, five times in the book of Psalms a "new song" is mentioned, and three of those times we are commanded to sing a "new song."

Rock music is a legacy of paganism more than a cultural heritage.

An African Christian who was saved out of his native form of ancestral worship became involved with Christian youth work in Zimbabwe. In April 1990 he came to the United States for the first time.

When he turned on a Christian radio station and listened to the "Christian" music, he was shocked. He expressed his amazement at the increasing presence of the "rock beat" in American church music as he shared his testimony:

"I am very sensitive to the beat in music, because when I was a boy, I played the drums in our village worship rituals. The beat I played on the drum was to get the demon spirits into the people.

"When I became a Christian, I rejected this kind of beat because I realized how damaging it was.

"When I turned on a Christian radio station in the United States, I was shocked. The same beat that I used to play to call up the evil spirits is in the music I heard on the Christian station."

—Stephen Maphosah

2 The Function of the "Rock Beat"

Studies conducted by Christians as well as non-Christians have noted how the repetitious nature of the chordal patterns and beat actually produces a form of hypnotism. Rock music literally commands a response from the audience.

When immorality is subtly or openly encouraged as in the secular and some aspects of the "Christian rock" world, the crowd seeks sensual fulfillment.

If a "Christian" concert includes an invitation to receive Christ as Savior, there is a greater tendency for a response that does not come from genuine repentance for sin.

R. Mesmer, a writer for the *Journal of Christian Healing*, explained in an article on the subject of hypnotism, "Because drums intervene in the normal ongoing split-second alteration . . . during usual states of consciousness, rock music can be well regarded as generating an altered state of consciousness."

The "rock beat" in "Christian rock" and much of "Christian Contemporary" music not only opens the hearer to the suggestions of the lyrics and of the musician, but the continual wearing on the listener's mental and spiritual senses, causes him to be more susceptible to demonic influences. This is why so many young men and women today describe their involvement in music like the following teenager.

The testimony of a minor

"About four years ago, our church got a new youth pastor. He began playing 'Christian rock' before meetings and during activities. He encouraged me to get a copy of a certain tape, which I did, even though my parents forbade me from doing so.

"Because I was being home educated, the church youth group was the only significant outside influence in my life, but that influence was enough to cause me to rebel and wreck my life for the next four years.

"I then started listening to secular soft rock music, thinking, 'What's wrong with this? It has less beat than Christian music.' If only I had known what a deceiver Satan is, I would have saved myself a lot of heartache.

At a Christian radio station's New Year's Eve party, I was introduced to 'Christian rap' music. Before that time, I did not listen to rap, but after hearing it there, I began justifying to myself that the beat couldn't be all bad because Christians listened to it, and it didn't seem to harm *them*.

"What it did to me was cause a complete breakdown in morals, which led directly to my becoming involved in immoral habits and illegal activities. I was also constantly plagued with violent and unclean thoughts.

"Since then, I have taken steps to regain the 'ground' given to Satan, and for the first time in years, I have a feeling of complete freedom from the influence of this music."

Further testimony linking rock music to delinquent behavior

The American Medical Association (AMA) prepared a study on the influence of rock music, and the study gives a medical perspective on how this music relates to juvenile delinquency. The AMA's findings were summarized in the following article in the September 15, 1989, *Chicago Sun-Times*.

AMA Links Drugs, Immorality, and Rock 'n' Roll

"Doctors should be alert to the listening habits of young patients as a clue to their emotional health, because fascination with rock 'n' roll, especially heavy metal music, may be associated with drug use, premarital sex, and satanic rites," a committee of the American Medical Association said.

"At the very least, commitment to a rock subculture is symptomatic of adolescent alienation," the AMA's Group on Science and Technology said in its report, 'Adolescents and Their Music,' published by the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"The AMA committee reported that 'the average teenager listens to 10,400 hours of rock music during

the years between the 7th and 12th grades, and music surpasses television as an influence in teenagers' lives. While TV viewing often is supervised by parents, music largely is uncensored,' the committee said.

"As an important agent of adolescent socialization, however, the negative messages of rock music should not be dismissed," the committee said.

"The committee cited '... evidence linking involvement in rock culture with low school achievement, drugs, sexual activity and even satanic activities.'

"The violent and sexual content of the video images are disturbing to many," the committee said.

"... A study found that 7th and 10th graders, after watching one hour of music videos, were more likely to approve of premarital sex than were a control group of adolescents."

The increase in child delinquency in relation to rock music was also noted by the legal community, and even the United States Senate established an investigative committee to research the obvious connection.

However, the undeniable evidence of the destructive results of the "rock beat" is the witness of those whose lives have been devastated by it.

How has the law been used against those contributing to the delinquency of minors?

Criminal statutes in this area vary from state to state. In Illinois, the law was established in 1915. Surprisingly, it has been little used. One of the best-known cases occurred in 1965: *People v. Hall*.

This case involved a young man who was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a female minor. He convinced her to ride with him in a car without parental knowledge or consent.

His action was in direct violation of her family court probation order for parental supervision. That evening they were both arrested for illegal possession of alcohol. The court ruled in favor of the parents, thus affirming parental guidance.

Project

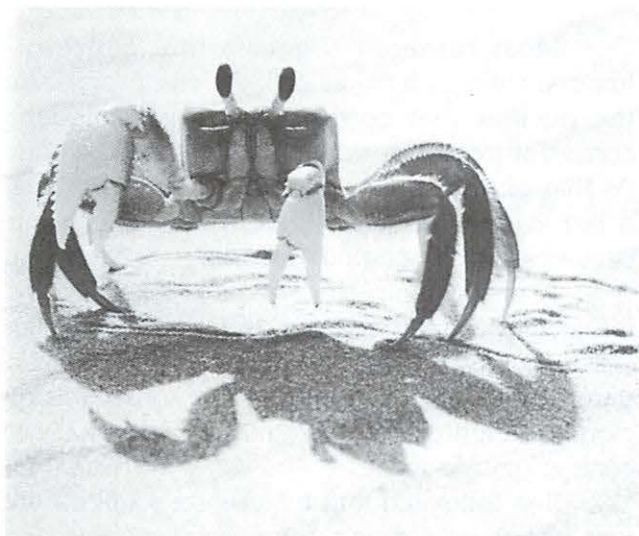
Contact your district attorney's office and ask if your state has laws against those who contribute to the delinquency of minors. Ask what is needed for parents to establish a case against rock music companies for their part in causing rebellion.

Date completed _____ Evaluation _____



MEDICINE RESOURCE

HOW DO CANCER CELLS ILLUSTRATE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE PROPHETS?



Jack Derrid Photo Trends

A false prophet in "sheep's clothing," a crab hidden in the sand, and a cancer cell have much in common. All three attempt to deceive unwary victims.

Out of the sea it rose. A single claw opened and closed menacingly as if it had a mind and will of its own. No body appeared to be attached. The claw stood alone on the shore. Then without warning, a second, a third, and a fourth claw joined the first. Soon the whole beach was literally crawling with them.

Closer study revealed that tiny bodies and spindly legs carried each claw across the sand. However, not one walked in a straight path. Instead they moved about with a series of abrupt starts, stops, and sidesteps. They invaded neighboring territories, were driven back, and invaded again. They hid in the sand to avoid detection, then reemerged, as if lifted by a hidden power.

Waves washed over them, propelling them forward one moment and dragging them back to the sea the next. They came closer and closer as their numbers overwhelmed the beach. Yet, there was no order whatsoever to their advance. Their

footprints left a meaningless pattern that no one could decipher.

It is no coincidence that this scene of a host of crabs is similar to the advance of cancer cells within a person's body. The Greek word for "crab" is *karkinos*. It is the root from which the word *carcinogen* ("cancer-causing") is derived.

Each year there are approximately 800,000 new cases of cancer, and each year, more than 460,000 people die in its formidable grasp. It is highly unlikely that anyone over the age of sixty-five will die without cancer cells in his body. These cells may not be the cause of death, but they will be present nevertheless.

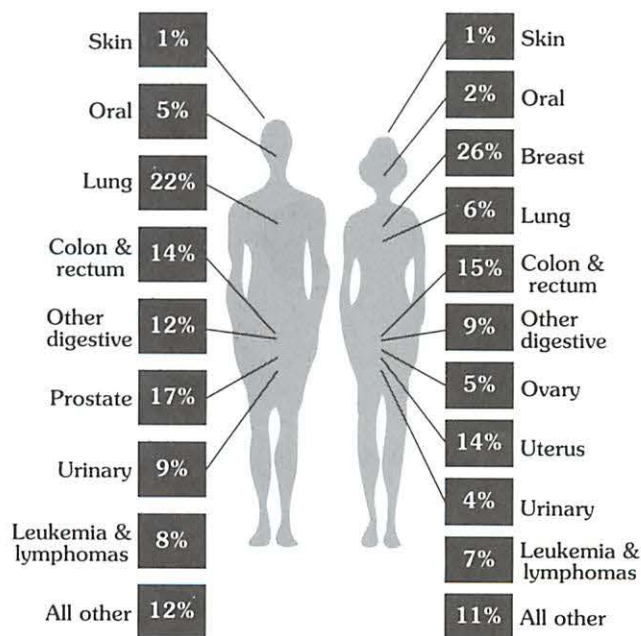
Learn how these destructive cancer cells illustrate the pernicious characteristics and practices of false prophets.

1 CANCER CELLS COME IN MANY DIFFERENT GUISES.

Strictly speaking, cancer is not one specific disease. It is a family of more than one hundred diseases that invade and destroy different members of the body. In fact, cancer cells are so

CANCER INCIDENCE BY MEMBER

1990



The most deadly cancers are lung and breast cancer. Together they account for *more than one-third* of all cancer deaths. The above figures do not include a half-million cases of superficial skin cancer each year.

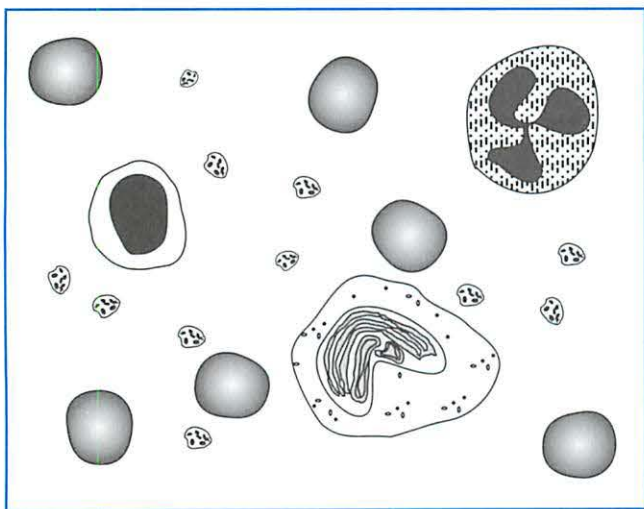
varied that physicians classify them according to the member of the body where they originate.

When physicians describe cancer they often use terms originating from Greek to indicate the particular member that is affected. Cancers that infiltrate surface members such as the skin, the lining of the stomach and large intestines, the bronchi of the lungs, the prostate gland in men, or the ducts of a woman's breasts are known as **carcinomas**. The term *carcinoma* comes from the Greek word *karkinos*, and the suffix, *oma*, which means "tumor."

Sarcomas are cancers of connective tissue, such as muscles, bones, and cartilage. This term originates from the Greek word *sarx*, meaning "flesh." A **melanoma** is a cancer of pigment-producing cells such as those in the iris of the eye or the cells that color the skin. *Melas* is the Greek word for "black." It is used in a variety of medical terms to refer to dark colors.

Myelomas begin in the blood-producing cells of the bone marrow. The term comes from the Greek word *myelos*, which refers to something that is "in the middle." Myelomas originate "in the middle of" the bones.

Lymphomas are cancers of the lymphatic system. Many times these cancers manifest themselves as leukemia. **Leukemia** is a general medical term that refers to a number of abnormal conditions affecting the white blood cells. *Leukemia* comes from two Greek words: *leuko*, meaning "white," and *haima*, meaning "blood."



When white blood cells (the larger, nucleated cells) divide uncontrollably, they interfere with the normal function of the blood. This type of cancer, called *leukemia*, renders a patient vulnerable to many other diseases.

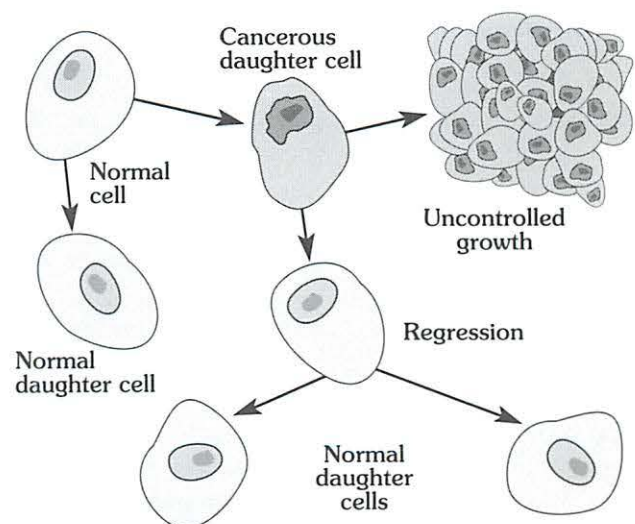
Among Americans, non-melanoma skin cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer, accounting for almost half of the total number of cases. Of the other forms, lung cancer in men and breast cancer in women make up almost one-fourth of the remaining cases. The combined cancers of the lower abdominal area, including the colon, rectum, and reproductive organs, account for almost another 40 percent.

2 CANCER ORIGINATES FROM THE "HEART" OF A SINGLE CELL.

Most research suggests that cancerous tumors begin as a single cell. A "compromise" in the nucleus that controls a cell can suddenly convert it from a normal cell to a cancerous one. As that one cell grows and divides, it gives rise to other cancerous cells. Eventually the tumor becomes large enough to become noticeable.

A breast lump the size of a small marble, for example, may contain as many as a billion cells and require seven years to develop from its parent cell. All of the cells in the tumor are the cloned daughters of a single cell and share its genetic "compromise."

It is estimated that between one million and four million cells divide in the body each second. That means that over the course of forty years,



While the immune system normally identifies and destroys cancer cells before they have an opportunity to multiply, it takes only one unrecognized compromise to initiate a potentially fatal tumor. Occasionally a cancer cell spontaneously rejects its own compromise and returns to normal. Physicians call this action *regression*.

there are at least 1,261,440,000,000,000 chances for cells to make compromises that lead it astray. If even a single one errs, a tumor is born.

Even though all cells in a tumor originate from a single clone, a tumor shows more and more genetic instability as it grows. With each generation, it adds new compromises to its nucleus. These compromises alter the controls that regulate the cells, allowing them to deviate further from their intended purpose.

As cancer cells multiply, they crisscross each other, forming disorderly piles of both living and dead cells. The result is a disorganized tumor, or *onkos*. **Oncology**, the study of cancer, comes from the Greek words *onkos*, meaning "bulk" or "mass," and *logos*, meaning "the study of."

3 **CANCER CELLS ARE UNSTABLE CELLS THAT HAVE BEEN ISOLATED.**

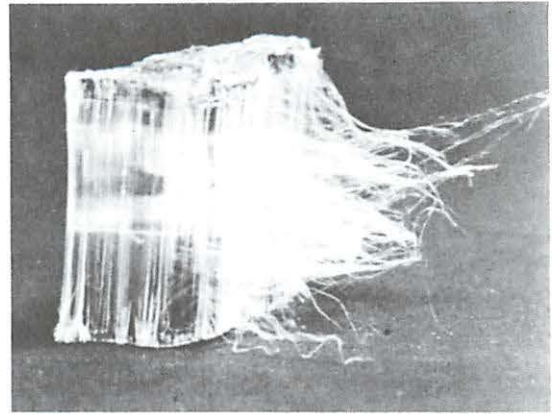
The compromise that takes place inside a cancer cell is often prompted by substances called **carcinogens**. While carcinogens may not always cause cancer directly, they contribute to a cell's vulnerability.

Researchers believe that carcinogens called **initiators** may alter surface characteristics of a cell and inhibit its contact with other cells. These isolated cells then tend to grow dull and insensitive to errors in their control centers and eventually adopt different rules for functioning. Once a cell is isolated, other carcinogens called **promoters** seem to encourage it in its wayward course.

An example of this two-stage process of initiation and promotion is found in skin cancer. A chemical known as **croton oil** rarely produces cancer by itself. However, if a section of skin is treated with a carcinogenic hydrocarbon and the croton oil is then applied, cancer results in almost every case. The hydrocarbon acts as the initiator, and the croton oil acts as the promoter.

Carcinogens are found in food, tobacco smoke, the ultraviolet rays of sunlight, man-made chemicals such as PCBs, PVCs, and EDBs, chromium ore, colored dyes, certain viruses, and ionizing radiation. In some cases even chemotherapy and radiation therapy actually initiate new cancer cells while they destroy advanced forms of cancer in neighboring members.

Certain occupational conditions exist that prolong and intensify contact with carcinogens, thus greatly increasing the risk of cancer.



Johns-Manville Corporation

Cancer researchers claim that asbestos is overrated as a carcinogen. The incidence of cancer it produces is considered by many to be negligible. Unfortunately, the cellulose used to replace asbestos often promotes the spread of infectious diseases.

Chimney sweeps in England have shown a marked increase in a certain type of cancer as a result of their daily encounter with coal tar.

Automobile workers have also experienced greater-than-average levels of cancer as a result of their exposure to polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Likewise, tire manufacturers have found that the aniline dye in rubber tires initiates cancerous lesions in those who experience prolonged contact.

Because the effects of many of these carcinogens appear to be cumulative and gradual, they may not produce tumors for twenty years or more. Prevention is very difficult, because the damage is already done before the cancer is detected.

Many miners for example, never experience any cancer until after they have retired.

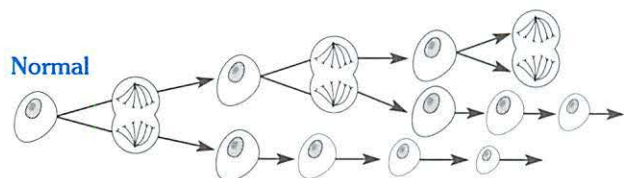
4 **CANCER CELLS REMAIN IMMATURE AND MULTIPLY.**

Normal cells mature and divide regularly throughout their life spans. After about thirty to fifty divisions, however, they gradually slow down and eventually die. This process is called **senescence**. The term comes from the Latin word *senescere*, meaning "to grow old."

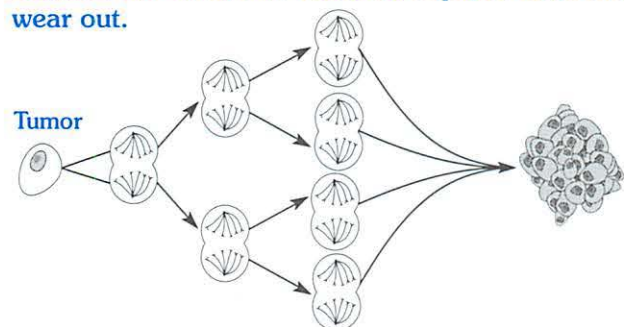
Cancer cells, on the other hand, divide endlessly without growing old. They do not respond to natural growth regulators in the body, and they refuse to mature. Instead they remain in an infantile state throughout their entire lives.

Oncologists (those who study cancer) refer to the rapid division of cancer cells as **neoplasia**.

Neoplasia is a Greek word meaning “new growth.” Because cancer cells divide relentlessly, their “birth” rate quickly exceeds their death rate, and a tumor forms.



Most normal cells mature, and only a few continue to divide in order to replace cells that wear out.



Cancer cells fail to mature. Instead of becoming functional cells, they remain infantile and divide without restraint.

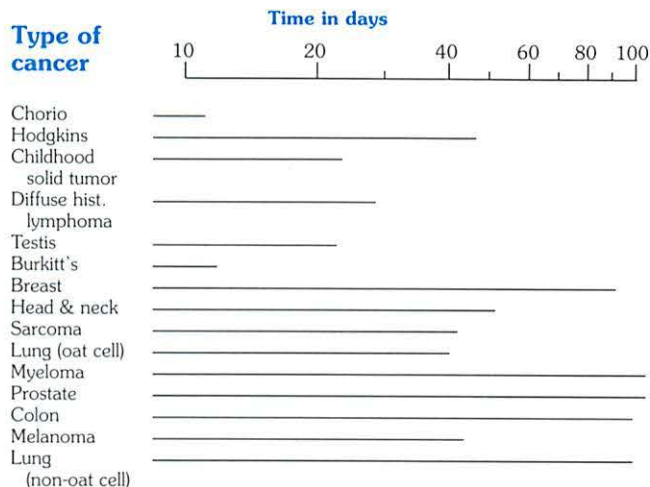
Researchers refer to the time it takes for a tumor to double in size as its “doubling time.” For example, the average doubling time for testicular cancer is only twenty-one days. Cancer of the colon, on the other hand, has a doubling time of one hundred days.

Over a period of time, tumors may suddenly grow faster and then slow down. The changing rate depends on the number of cells that divide rather than mature. Since aging cells divide less rapidly, a tumor’s doubling time increases as cells grow old. It is the immature cells that reproduce without restraint.

Oncologists give the term “growth fraction” to the ratio between young and old cells in a tumor. The more young cells present in a tumor, the greater the growth fraction and the faster a tumor grows. The more *older* cells in a tumor, the lower the growth fraction and the slower the tumor grows.

In one sense, tumor growth is similar to a bank account. The rate of cell growth is like the interest that a bank account earns. The growth fraction is like the principal which has been invested. Obviously, both an increased interest rate and a larger principal can generate larger returns. However, increasing the principal produces faster results than increasing the interest rate.

AVERAGE DOUBLING TIMES OF CANCER



In slow-growing tumors such as breast and colon carcinomas, less than 5 percent of the cells may be in a multiplying cycle. Fast-growing tumors often have a growth fraction of 80 percent.

As cancer cells produce more and more infantile cells, they fail to develop responsible functions within the members they serve. In effect, they become parasites, living off other members without fulfilling their appointed tasks. Researchers call this lack of maturity **anaplasia**. It is defined as the fixation of cells in a childish or undifferentiated state.

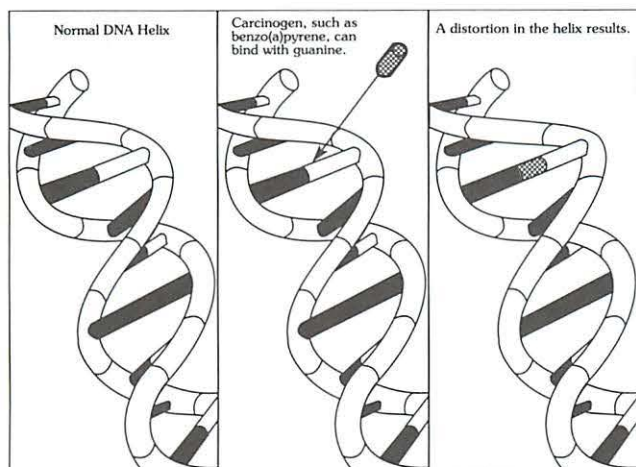
Anaplasia and neoplasia appear to be clearly associated. The more immature cells remain, the more they tend to multiply, and the more they multiply, the greater the probability that their offspring will also fail to mature. This lack of maturity also makes cancer cells more susceptible to further genetic compromises. In fact, one genetic alteration seems to precipitate others.

The result is a tumor that becomes increasingly malignant and less restrained. The term *malignant* comes from the Latin roots *male*, meaning “badly,” and *gignere*, meaning “to beget.” A tumor that restricts its growth and restrains itself is said to be *benign*. It comes from the Latin words *bene*, meaning “well,” and *gignere*.

5 CANCER CELLS REPRODUCE AN INCORRECT MESSAGE.

During the initial stage of cancer, carcinogens challenge the most important part of a cell—its DNA. Carcinogens change the order of the components of a DNA chain, scrambling various parts of its instructions.

Normally the instructions are encoded by the sequence of the components of the DNA called *genes*. Carcinogens, however, add, subtract, or transpose the genes to alter the sequence and the instructions.



DNA stands for deoxyribonucleic acid, a complex molecule made up of sugars, phosphates, and bases that form a spiraling double helix. The ordered arrangements of the bases (the “rungs”) on the chain are called genes. Genes control the various functions of the cell. Each strand of DNA contains hundreds and perhaps thousands of genes. (See Medicine Resource, Wisdom Booklet 36.)

In most cases, any alteration in a gene causes catastrophic results within a cell that lead to complete confusion and immediate death. However, some changes are so subtle that a cell lives long enough to repair the damage.

Certain molecules in the nucleus of the cell check the accuracy of its DNA every time the cell divides. If there are any errors, these molecules correctly rearrange the bases in the DNA strand.

Cancer results when one of these subtle errors gets by without being recognized or repaired. The error is then transmitted and replicated inside every daughter cell the cancer produces.

So far, researchers have identified three major types of genetic changes that are common to most cancers. First, errors in a cell's genes cause it to manufacture inferior enzymes. Enzymes control the chemical reactions within a cell.

There are more than one thousand different enzymes in the body, and each has its own specific purpose. Some enzymes break down complex substances. Other enzymes put substances back together. Still others diffuse out of their cells and perform their duties far away from “home.” These changes may affect not only a local cell, but also members throughout the body.

A second major change involves receptor cells that cover the surface of a cancer cell. Normally these receptors receive chemical information from surrounding cells.

However, subtle cancerous errors in a cell's genes may confuse the “senses” of these receptors so they ignore important messages and overreact to others. This leaves a cancerous cell “out of touch” with the needs of its neighbors. It literally “does its own thing,” without feedback from the body.

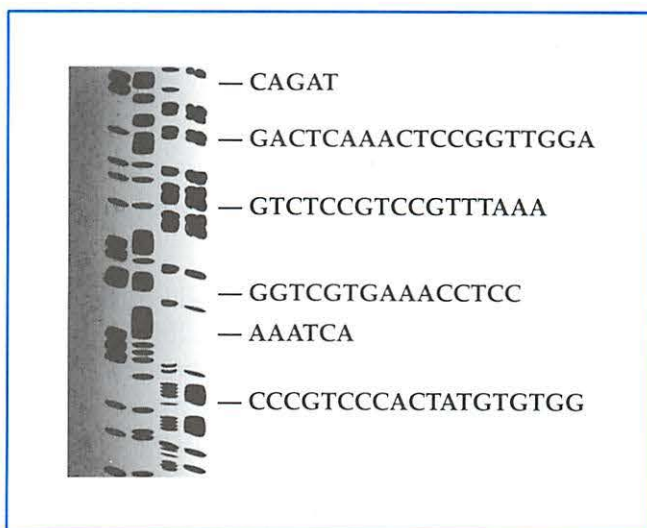
Finally, alterations in the DNA of a cell tend to change its priorities, leaving the cell unrestrained. Moving a gene from one location to another may cause that gene to become hyperactive.

In other cases, the genes may be “turned off.” This switching on and off of certain genes may account for cancer cells' rapid growth and their lack of maturity.

Because researchers have been able to map genes within a human cell, they can monitor the changes that take place within cancerous cells. The DNA of a cancerous cervical cell exhibits a deletion or a translocation of genes in its first chromosome.

Lung cancer patients show an alteration in their third chromosome. Ninety percent of leukemia patients have a translocation of a gene between their ninth and twenty-second chromosomes.

Samples of ovarian cancer cells reveal a deletion of the sixth chromosome and an addition to the fourteenth chromosome, or a transposition of portions between the two.



Researchers can chemically separate a strand of DNA to determine the order of its bases. Changes in the order represent altered genes.

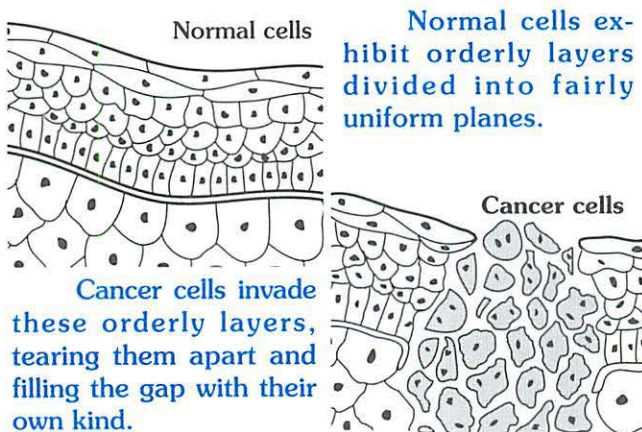
The letters C, A, G, and T in the above diagram stand for *cytosine*, *adenine*, *guanine*, and *thymine*, respectively. These substances form the bases of the DNA molecules.

Unfortunately, chemotherapy and radiation treatments intended to cure cancer are also known to produce alterations in chromosomes five and seven. These changes actually *increase* the future risk of leukemia. In other words, a cure for one cancer may actually contribute to the occurrence of another.

6 **CANCER CELLS DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS WOUNDED MEMBERS THAT NEED HEALING.**

Cancerous tumors tend to grow along paths of least resistance. They prefer veins to arteries and soft tissue to tough muscle or bone. Some tumors grow between tissue planes, and others follow along nerve fibers and the surfaces of organs.

However, where tumors encounter resistance, they are capable of secreting substances that destroy organized tissue. For example, breast cancer cells produce a peptide (portion of a protein) that actually absorbs bone. It literally transforms a hostile environment into one in which its daughter cells can thrive.



Other cancers invade surrounding tissue by producing a substance that causes its neighbors to retreat. As the cancer advances, the neighboring tissue recedes even further, giving the cancer more room to grow. More importantly, the retreating tissue exposes the underlying "basement" membrane, giving the tumor a place to attach itself permanently.

Once attached, tumors produce *pro-coagulants* that stimulate the formation of fibrin around themselves. As the threads of fibrin become enmeshed in one another, they spin a "cocoon" around the tumor, causing it to resemble the surface of a healing wound.

Many researchers believe that this "cocoon" may protect cancer cells from being attacked by the body's immune system. By disguising themselves as an injured member, the cancer cells avoid detection, and in some cases, actually mislead the body into fostering the cells' "recovery."

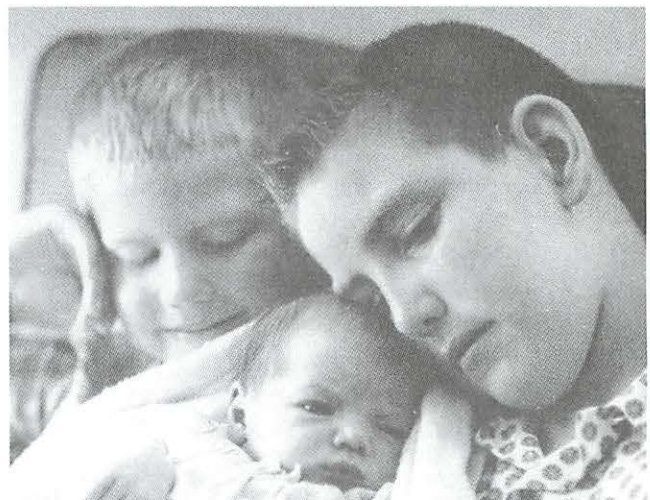
As a tumor outgrows its protective cocoon, it begins to dissolve the fibrin shell from the inside. By the time the body recognizes its presence, the tumor is often so well entrenched that it defies the body's natural defenses.

Other cancers produce a substance known as *HCG*, or *human chorionic gonadotropin*. HCG is a potent hormone that affects the immune system. It is the same hormone that the placenta of a growing infant produces inside his mother's womb.

HCG inhibits the immune system so that it does not reject the child. If not protected, an infant would be recognized as a "foreigner" in his mother's body and would be attacked like any common virus or bacteria.

By cloaking themselves in the disguise of a growing infant, some cancerous tumors not only avoid detection, but actually encourage members of the body to nurture it.

These same malignant cells produce a substance called *tumor angiogenesis factor* (TAF), which stimulates the growth of new blood vessels around the cells. The process works in much the same way as the placenta develops in a woman's uterus. Nearby blood vessels send out capillaries that eventually penetrate the tumor and supply it with whatever nutrients it needs.



Cancerous tumors may produce HCG that enlarges a woman's ovaries, giving her body a false sense of pregnancy. The hormone transforms normal rejection into a nurturing response.

7 CANCER CELLS MAY LIE INACTIVE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

Researchers found that potential cancer cells can remain inactive for more than twenty years. During that time they cause no noticeable symptoms and are tolerated hospitably by the members of the body. However, a sudden intrusion or conflict among the members of the body can activate these cells' cancerous nature and accelerate the growth of a lethal tumor.

In one research study, surgeons removed half of a mouse's liver to test its regenerative powers. Within a matter of days the liver began to grow back and eventually replaced the lost member with new functional cells.

Once the liver was restored, the cells promptly stopped dividing. No tumors resulted because local growth factors "turned off" the rapidly multiplying cells as soon as the liver reached normal size.

However, when another mouse was exposed to radiation prior to the same surgery, liver tumors invaded the entire liver. Even when the surgery was postponed for several years, the cancer cells caused by the radiation remained dormant until the surgery triggered a surge of growth.

Other carcinogens such as tobacco smoke, X rays, man-made chemicals, and ultraviolet light have similar effects. Damaged cells may remain



The tumor in this mouse is being measured for an experiment in cancer research.

inactive for extended periods of time. In fact, their initial exposure is often completely forgotten. Yet, stress, injury, or infection can suddenly provoke them to express their cancerous condition.

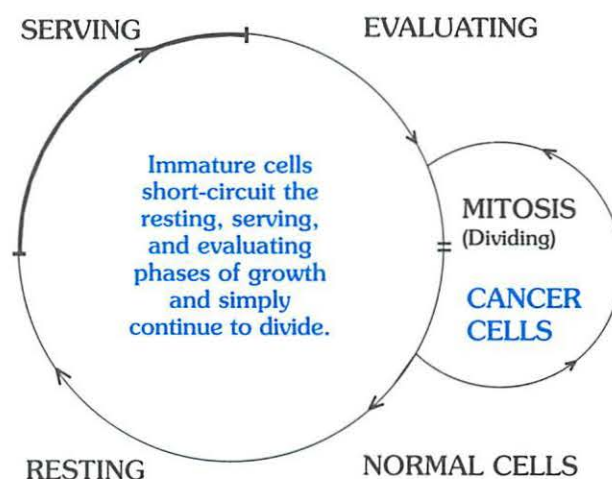
Once a cancerous tumor forms, it may also undergo periods of dormancy. Physicians call this stage **remission**. The cancer is not gone—it has just stopped growing. No one knows for sure what causes remission, but it may have something to do with the stages cells go through as they multiply and divide.

Researchers divide cell growth into four distinct periods. **Mitosis** (M) is the stage during which the cell actually divides.

The second stage is a **resting period** (R), during which the cell grows and begins to mature.

The third stage involves DNA **synthesis** (S), during which the cell **serves** the body as a productive member.

The fourth stage is an **evaluative** period (E), during which the cell determines if its DNA is sufficiently intact to pass on to daughter cells.



The critical periods of this process are (R) and (E). Many cancer cells remain in a resting phase for a long period of time. They neither multiply nor serve the body—they merely exist.

When a cancer cell does become active, it may move in one of two directions. It can go to work as a productive cell (S), (although the S stage in cancer cells is mostly counterproductive), or it may jump straight to the mitosis stage without evaluating the accuracy of its DNA. Tumors with a large proportion (large growth fraction) of these active-but-immature cells may grow quite dramatically.

8 CANCER CELLS DIMINISH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOOD FOOD.

Most progressive cancers are accompanied by a diminished desire for food. This loss of appetite may be precipitated by several factors, including toxins, dysfunction of the gastrointestinal tract, and pain.

Many cancer cells produce unidentified toxic substances that can make the body feel generally ill and weak. Oftentimes the poisons produce varying degrees of nausea with or without vomiting.

Anxiety and depression also contribute to a loss of appetite. Poor nutrition, however, is not merely the result of a lack of food. Cancers can also alter the normal digestive process to the point that food is not properly digested or absorbed.

For example, a loss of pancreatic enzymes makes it difficult for a cancer patient to digest carbohydrates. The absence of other enzymes also limits the absorption of fats and fat-soluble vitamins.

Cancer of the liver reduces energy stores and requires the body to consume extra protein to sustain itself. Kidney failure leads to complications such as acidosis and uremia, both of which produce nausea, vomiting, and a loss of appetite. Even the simple pressure of a tumor against the stomach or small intestine can produce reflexes that make eating offensive.

Complicating these matters is the fact that cancer radiation treatments damage the lining of the mouth and cause the salivary glands to shrink. Because saliva must at least partly dissolve food before the taste buds can recognize a flavor, the lack of saliva produces a dry mouth that is not only painful but also incapable of tasting food.

The lack of saliva also leaves food rough and irritating to swallow. Furthermore, prolonged dryness in the mouth promotes gum disease, dental cavities, and painful oral ulcers.

Much of the pain associated with cancer is the result of stretch receptors located near a tumor. As the tumor grows, the receptors detect the change and register pain. In many cases the lining of a particular organ causes the most excruciating pain.

Brain cells for example, are not sensitive to pressure, but the linings that surround them, the *meninges* (muh-NIN-jeez), are extremely sensitive to pressure. The lining of the bones, called the *endosteum* (en-DAH-stee-um), and of the abdomen,

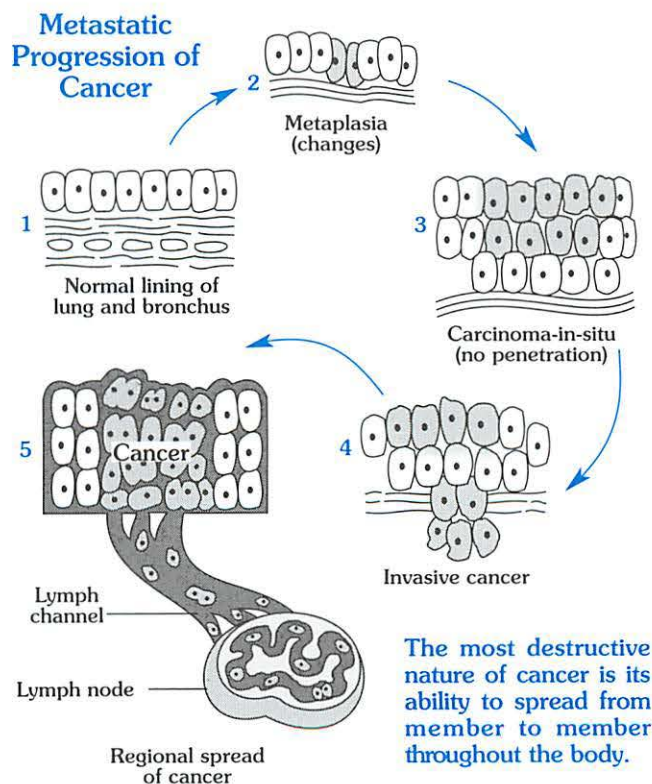
called the *peritoneum* (pehr-ih-tuh-NEE-um), also contain a rich supply of pain receptors.

Regrettably, most pain relievers depress appetites for good food to the point that some cancer patients literally starve to death.

9 CANCER CELLS SPREAD RAPIDLY TO INFILTRATE OTHER MEMBERS.

Cancer's major threat is its ability to spread to other members of the body. As multiple tumors develop in remote sites, they may cripple a person's lungs, liver, nervous system, or blood supply. Death seldom comes from the original site of a cancer. More often, death results from cancer's attack on the multiple fronts to which it spreads.

The term used to describe a cancer's spread is **metastasis** (muh-TASS-tuh-siss). The word comes from the Greek prefix *meta*, meaning "change," and the root *stasis*, meaning "to place or stand." *Metastasis* means, literally, "a change in one's place or stand." In cancer it refers to the appearance of cancerous cells in parts of the body that are far away from the primary tumor.



Metastasis does not just suddenly happen. Instead it develops over a period of time. At first, cancerous cells simply congregate in one place. This disorganized pattern of local growth is known as **metaplasia**. As cells accumulate to form a small tumor, the cancer has reached the *in situ* (Latin for “in position”) stage. That is to say, an isolated tumor has formed.

However, most cancerous tumors do not stop there. They invade the surrounding tissue, breaking through the basement membranes that protect most tissue and organs and appropriating their nourishment for itself. This is the *invasive* stage of metastasis.

Unlike normal cells that cling to one another, cancer cells exhibit very little cohesiveness. In fact, they are bound together so loosely that tumor cells break off easily. These wandering cells invade the channels of the lymphatic system and lodge in nearby lymph nodes. This stage is known as *regional metastasis*.

Eventually tumor cells leak into the bloodstream and are carried all over the body. In most cases the body recognizes them and refuses to give them shelter. Researchers believe that fewer than one-tenth of one percent of these vagabonds ever divide and multiply. However, it takes only

one cell to establish a new tumor. As that tumor grows, it, too, sheds even more individual cells, which then invade other members of the body.

Body cells that divide rapidly appear to be the most susceptible to metastasis. Skin cells, bone marrow, and the lining of the stomach and intestines are particularly vulnerable to wandering cancer cells. Cells in these areas must grow quickly in order to constantly replenish aging cells. This active and relatively youthful state contributes to these areas' tolerance of the aliens.

On the other hand, liver and kidney cells rarely divide. Because these mature cells remain functional for long periods of time without wearing out, they are usually the last to be invaded by cancer cells.

Extensive clinical observations indicate that most metastasis is non-random. That is to say, certain types of cancer have an affinity for certain members of the body. For example, breast cancer frequently finds its way to the bones, lungs, and eventually, the liver.

Ovarian cancer tends to metastasize to the lining of the abdomen. Lung cancer finds its way to the brain, adrenal glands, kidneys, and liver. Cancers of the head and neck region generally spread to the pharynx, while cancers of the stomach invade the liver almost twice as often as any other member.

CANCER STAGING CODES

Physicians code the spread of cancer by using letters and numbers. A *T* refers to the condition of the original tumor. *N* describes the regional lymph nodes. *M* assesses the degree of metastasis.

An *X* after a letter means that there is no information. A *0* means that there are no observable signs of any spread. Numbers 1, 2, or 3 indicate the size of the tumor or the degree to which it has spread.

EXAMPLES:

- T0 No evidence of a primary tumor
- TX No information available
- T1 Tumor present less than 3 cm in diameter
- T2 Tumor more than 3 cm
- T3 Tumor that extends into an adjacent structure
- N0 No metastasis to regional lymph nodes
- N1 Limited metastasis into lymph nodes
- N2 Expanded infiltration of lymph system
- MX No information available
- M0 No known metastasis to other members
- M1 Metastasis present. (Usually followed with the name of the affected member)

10 CANCER CELLS ATTACK THE MOST VULNERABLE MEMBERS.

A number of studies have demonstrated that vitamin A plays a major role in maintaining normal, healthy epithelial tissue. Epithelial tissue is the outer layer of cells that covers most of the body's members. Vitamin A promotes maturity among those cells and helps to protect them against carcinogens that initiate or promote cancer.

When a patient suffers from a lack of vitamin A, normal cells begin to lose their identity and conform to the characteristics of surrounding tissue. This is another form of metaplasia. These metaplastic cells are particularly vulnerable and often become cancerous.

Conversely, patients can significantly reduce their potential for cancer by ensuring an adequate supply of vitamin A in their diets.

Other studies have shown that vitamin C can also reduce the probability of developing stomach and esophageal cancer.

It is interesting to note that when people emigrate to a new country and change their diets, they often acquire the patterns of cancer that are characteristic of their new neighbors. This evidence confirms that many cancers are promoted by the types of food we eat. High-fiber, low-calorie diets have been clearly demonstrated to substantially reduce vulnerability to cancer.

- False prophets appeal to worldly influences to justify and promote their ideas.
- False prophets spread rumors.
- False prophets wait patiently for an opportune moment to lead others astray.
- False prophets reject authority.
- Rarely are any two false prophets identical.
- False prophets prey upon ancestral weaknesses.
- False prophets may disguise themselves as church members who have been hurt.
- False prophets give rise to others that are just like themselves.
- False prophets can be categorized by those they deceive.
- False prophets add to the Scripture.
- False prophets drain resources.
- As compromises accumulate, they produce instability, which encourages more compromises.
- False prophets use indulgent people.
- False prophets rearrange the church's priorities for their own purposes.
- False prophets use guilt to alienate.
- False prophets need initiate only a single compromise in order to weaken the body.
- False prophets delete parts of Scripture.
- False prophets discourage maturity.
- False prophets may cloak themselves in the innocence of infancy.
- Constant exposure to false prophets has a cumulative effect and may remain hidden.
- False prophets rarely band together. Instead, they usually operate independently, establishing their own individual kingdoms wherever they can.
- False prophets' success depends upon subtlety.

Medicine Resource G (Booklet 50—Preliminary Edition)