

## False Prophets and False Prophetesses

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Ezekiel thirteen is the prophet's third Message on the Certainty of Judgment. The first two judgments are in Ezekiel 12:21-25 and in 12:26-28. Here are Ezekiel's descriptions of false prophets:

### Verses 1-3

God said the false prophets prophesy *from their own inspiration ...[and] their own spirit and have seen nothing*, even though they say, "*Listen to the word of the LORD!*" Once you determine that there are prophets today, the message is very hard to evaluate. The most common suggestion is that it must conform to the Bible. Then why not just follow the Bible? And, often new revelation did not conform to old revelation. [For example, eating laws; sacrifice animals—don't sacrifice animals; keep the law—Christ ended the law; go only to the Jews—go to Gentiles in the remotest parts of the earth.]

### Verses 4-9

False prophets are described as *foxes among ruins*. Israel was in ruins, and the false prophets were the foxes who were at home living among the ruins of immorality. What a fantastic metaphor of false teachers today! Actually, it's a good way to identify a false teacher. **False prophets are at home with the sin in the church.** The church is in moral ruins, and they promote grace without repentance.

### Verses 10-16

The false prophets are pictured as those who put *whitewash on a wall*. The wall represented the false society set up by Israel, based on the tolerance of sin, primarily idolatry. The cracks, which revealed the certain destruction of that wall, were whitewashed over by the false prophets. **False prophets make a bad wall look good, but that won't keep the wall from falling.**

### Verses 17-23

True, women prophets ministered in both the Old and New Testaments (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4-5; 2 Kings 22:14; Acts 21:8-9). However, the prophetesses Ezekiel is talking about were like mediums or sorceresses. They were *women who sew magic bands on all wrists and make veils for the heads of persons...* Basically, these were "good luck charms" which supposedly had magical powers for healing or keeping away evil spirits. And they did this for a payment of *handfuls of barley and fragments of bread* (see also Deuteronomy 18:10).

### Application

1. False teachers will always be *foxes among ruins*. They will not just tolerate sin, they are also comfortable and at home around those who disobey the Word of God.
2. Probably the best way to identify a false teacher is one who is comfortable promoting and advocating for sin, like women teaching men, homosexuality, divorce/remarriage, and mixing other religious practices with Christianity, etc.