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## False Prophets Matthew 24:11

By Elder Keith Ellis

"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."  
Matthew 24:11

Not just a few false prophets but '*many*' were to appear on the scene. And even though there are such men active among God's people today, this particular passage deals with the events which would take place before the destruction of Jerusalem and its established worship system.

Jesus warns us in Matthew chapter seven verse fifteen these people are wolves in sheep's clothing. In other words they pretended to be God's sheep. They make it their business to enter into the church to sow discord among the true brethren. This is one of the ways they deceived many.

The apostle John warns us;

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."  
1 John 4:1

John tells us in no uncertain terms false prophets were already active among God's children. If such was not the case then there would have been no need for the warning.

So we see there were false prophets active before AD 70 in fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy. Yet there is more evidence than that given by John. Let's hear what Luke has to say in the book of Acts.

"And when they had gone through the isle of Pa-phos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was bar-jesus;"  
Acts 13:6

This man it is said was active in seeking to turn people away from the faith. Peter tells us;

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you..."  
2 Peter 2:1

Peter tells us the work of a false prophet is to teach falsehood. And in this same strain the apostle Paul mentions those in the church at Corinth that transformed themselves in to the Apostles of Christ, being deceitful workers. (2 Corinthians 11:13) And no doubt we can see

the prophecy of Jesus was accurate, in that there would be false prophets come on the scene to deceive many people. And all these events took place before AD 70. An examination will reveal the scripture abounds with evidences of false prophets, false teachers, false brethren and the like which went about to hurt and deceive the children of God who followed after Christ through the teachings of the Apostles.