

SYLVIA'S CORNER

WHAT IS THE TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET?

Mormonism teaches that their Church needs the direction of a modern day prophet. Is there a test to determine if that prophet is directed by the God of the Bible? I believe that there is.

The first part of the answer can be found in the Bible in Deuteronomy 18:21 & 22. In the King James Version it reads; "And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing that the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously, thou shalt not be afraid of him."

There it is. The first question to ask is have all the prophecies spoken of come true? If not, they can't be from the Lord.

Again in Matthew 7:15 the Bible says, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Continuing in this passage in verses 16-20 it talks about inspecting the fruits of these people. Another question to ask would be over the long haul, how do they fare the inspection process? I have found that no matter how good things appear to be on the outside, sooner or later the bad fruit will be apparent.

So what are some of these false prophecies in Mormonism that fail to meet the test of a true prophet? Let's take a look.

First, Joseph Smith prophesied in 1835 that the coming of the Lord would be within 56 years of that time. History of the Church vol 2 pg 182.

Another false prophecy of Joseph Smith was a temple would be built in Missouri during Smith's generation claiming that "this is the Word of God." D & C 84.

And here's one. The people who were alive in 1833 would see the destruction of the wicked and the return of the Lost Tribes of Israel. History of the Church Vol 1 pp 315-316.

None of these prophecies came to pass. So accordingly, the question that we must ask ourselves to test a prophet is this: if he has erred on one count, do we put our faith in him, or should our standard be the Bible--the Inerrant Word of God--where everything has come true or will come true in the future?