

AN ENTICING SCENARIO

By J.P. Timmons

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Scriptures: 1 Kings 22:1-38, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, 2 Timothy 3:1-8

The Lord gave me a message with this title that I ministered at our church in Montana back in 2005. The message is (available from our bookstore on 1 CD) even more relevant today. I also talked about this subject in my book, *The Prophetic Voice* – it’s a subject I find that very few Christians or even true prophets understand.

As you know, we write and preach about false prophets all the time because most prophets today, just like in the days of Ahab, are false prophets. It’s true in America and it’s true in Africa. We received an email from a “prophet” in Gambia wherein he said he “was directed to you by God” and proceeds to give us a prophetic word that will come to pass if we send him \$105 for some “holy anointing healing oil” called “mountain pull down.”

But an enticing word will normally come from a genuine prophet to you because of sin and some wrong thinking in your heart. An *enticing word* is something that you need to understand in these times in which we are living because if you don’t you might be deceived by a true prophet of the Lord.

An enticing word comes to a person primarily because they are stubborn – they have a stubborn spirit. They want to have their own way, regardless of the will of the Lord in a matter. If you asked them about God’s perfect will for their lives they would respond in

the affirmative – that this *thing* they desire is God’s perfect will for them when in fact it may be the opposite. It may be a person, such as a future spouse, or it may be material or even spiritual.

Like the prophet Balaam or the backslidden King of Israel, Ahab, they want a certain thing and so they will continue to “seek” God for a way to get it. In the case of Balaam it was money – he wanted to prostitute his prophetic gift for a financial reward like so many today. For Ahab it was real estate – he wanted back some disputed territory with Syria named Ramoth Gilead.

Back in 2003 I ordered a book for every family in our congregation. It dealt with the youth of America – Christian youth – and it was based on solid research. The results seemed incredible. Basically, most (not all, but most) of the Christian youth in America today don’t serve the God of the Scriptures and they don’t make decisions based on the word – their “god” is whatever works for them. I believe the same thing is true for many of their parents as well. Many people will only serve God if/when He prospers them. When economic times get tough such as they are now, they will abandon the Lord. Many who were givers or tithers will stop doing so, in effect breaking covenant with God.

The Lord chastised Israel for this type thing in the book of Jeremiah. They were prospering financially as long as they worshiped the Queen of Heaven (this is Ashtaroth, a demon spirit that is one of the 8 Powers that serves Satan). If they tried to serve the Lord their finances were attacked.

We’re living in a time when everything that can be shaken is being shaken; we need to stand fast in our faith and serve the Lord being faithful to Him in “all our ways.” We need to not be enticed by prophecies, gimmicks and lies promising wealth. In fact, we must be careful that we are not serving the god of Mammon (also a Power).

I've found during 40 years of ministry that what God prizes most in His people is a pure heart. Yet, not many Christians really have pure hearts. I would encourage you this month to make a commitment to work on purifying your heart – be sure you are serving the King of Kings for who He is and not what He can/will give you.