Lesson 9: Testing the prophets

A. The need to test the prophets

1. Matthew 24:24-25 What prophecy did Jesus give about false prophets?
2. What claim do these false prophets make? Matthew 7:22-23
3. What warning did Jesus give about false prophets? Matthew 7:15
4. What additional warning about false prophets was given by the Apostle John? 1 John 4:1 7:22-23

B. Distinguishing Between Prophets of God and False Prophets

1. Expect supernatural revelation
    a. Numbers 12:6, DanieI8:1-2, Exodus 3:1-6, etc.
    b. What lessons can we learn from the experience of the aged prophet Daniel recorded in Daniel10:4-21?
    c. Why is it dangerous to simply use this one test to distinguish between prophets of God and false prophets? Deuteronomy 13:1-5
2. Expect harmony with the rest of the Scriptures
    a. What counsel was given by the prophet Isaiah about testing the prophets? Isaiah 8:19-20
    b. How does Psalm 119:105 help us when we are seeking to distinguish between a true prophet of God and a false prophet?
    c. Share a time when the Word of God helped you to identify a false prophet.
3. Expect a message that uplifts Jesus Christ
    a. 1 John 4:1-3
    b. What message did the prophet John the Baptist boldly proclaim? John 1:29-34
    c. Why is it dangerous to simply talk about Jesus without a personal surrender to Him as Savior and Lord? Acts 19:13-15
4. Expect positive fruit
    a. What test did Jesus give to distinguish between a true prophet of God and a false prophet? Matthew 7:15-20
    b. Name a prophet of God who bore good fruit. Daniel 6:4-5, Genesis 5:23-23 (see Jude 14), etc.
    c. While true prophets of God bear good fruit, they aren't perfect. Give some examples.
5. Expect fulfilled prophecies
    a. If a prophet gives a prediction about the future, expect it to be fulfilled. Deuteronomy 18:22
    b. Give an example of a conditional prophecy. Jonah 3:1-10, etc.
    c. What great prophecy given by the prophet Daniel is being fulfilled in every detail? Daniel 2:29-45