

I Have Not Sent These Prophets

By Pastor Kevin Lea – May 24, 2009

Jeremiah 23:21-22 "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My counsel, and had caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings. (NKJ)

Jeremiah was called the weeping prophet because of the somber tone of the prophetic book which bears his name and the book of Lamentations which follows. For over two decades God had instructed Jeremiah to warn that judgment was coming. The people grew weary of the depressing warnings and continued in their sin and rebellion against God's law. At times the people would mock Jeremiah about how he was always the "sad news" prophet.

Jer 23:33 "When one of the people or one of their 'prophets' or priests asks you, 'Well, Jeremiah, what is the sad news from the Lord today?' you shall reply, 'What sad news? You are the sad news, for the Lord has cast you away!' (The Living Bible)

To counter Jeremiah's warnings, they turned their ears toward false prophets who would talk of peace and prosperity while ignoring the sins of the people. These false prophets would promise that God was going to bless them with good things in their future, even though they were worshiping idols, corrupting justice, oppressing the widows and orphans, etc. However, judgment did come and the false prophets were shown for what they were.

I see the same thing happening today with the Purpose Driven and Emergent Church movement. False teachers like Rick Warren and Brian McLaren are ignoring God's Word pertaining to sin and judgment and are denying the truth of the Gospel of Jesus, who is the Christ. Instead, they are teaching that Christianity needs to be reinvented in order to be accepted by the masses.

But Jesus didn't come with a "popular" message for the masses. He came to give life to the few people who would believe by faith that Jesus was the only way to be forgiven of sin. Once forgiven, they are acceptable to the Father, and destined to spend eternity in heaven with Him. Without forgiveness, there will be judgment.

It is clear that the world and Purpose Driven/Emergent church are moving further and further away from the truth of the Gospel. In this time of great apostasy and deception it is comforting to know that Jeremiah recorded how to discern who is telling the truth and who is the false teacher. God declares that the true prophet/teacher is the one who: "*caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings.*" The false teachers want you to close your Bibles and buy their books which are full of lies. My prayer is that you will not fall for their deceptions and stick with the words of Almighty God as you seek to obey and serve Him until He comes.