

False Prophets and Teachers ~ Part 2

2 Kefa 2:12-22

In my last post, we examined **False Prophets and Teachers ~ Part 1** in **2 Kefa 2:1-11**. In this post, we continue to unpack **Kefa's** denunciation of **False Prophets and Teachers ~ Part 2** in **2 Kefa 2:12-22**.

Kefa compared the **false teachers** to **Bil'am Ben-B'or** (Balaam Num 22-24). Like **Bil'am**, these **false teachers** had abandoned the straight path, were consumed by greed, and would receive the wages of their unrighteousness; **Bil'am's** donkey showed more moral sense than **Bil'am** did.

¹² But these people, acting without thinking, like animals without reason, born to be captured and destroyed, insult things about which they have no knowledge. When they are destroyed, their destruction will be total -

Kefa ridicules the **false teachers'** claim of superior spiritual **knowledge**, stating that they are actually irrational, like **animals**. The **false teachers** prided themselves on their wisdom, but they were blind to the truth.

In verses 13-15, **Kefa** uses the example of **Bil'am's** error to describe the character of the **false teachers** (see Num 22-24 and Jude 11). In using this story, he presents another guideline for identifying **false teachers**. As modern-day **Believers**, this is a lesson that we need to learn as those **false teachers** are still among us.

¹³ they will be paid back harm as wages for the harm they are doing. Their idea of pleasure is carousing in broad daylight; they are spots and defects reveling in their deceptions as they share meals with you -

Unrepentant **false teachers** and **prophets** will receive their judgment, which will be their destruction. The **false teachers** are shameless in the sinful deeds – they do not just enjoy sinning but the idea of doing so. They also share about their sinful actions, encouraging others to follow their ways (v. 18).

Meals with you refer to meals eaten in connection with worship service or the Lord's Supper. These "agape meals" were meant to enrich **Believers'** fellowship and strengthen their sense of union with **Yeshua**. But the **false teachers** are using the meals to lead others astray – they are exploiting the teachings of **Yeshua** when others are supposed to be experiencing the meaning of Yeshua's sacrifice and growing in their faith.

¹⁴ for they have eyes always on the lookout for a woman who will commit adultery, eyes that never stop sinning, and they have a heart that has exercised itself in greed; so that they seduce unstable people. What a cursed brood!

Such **false teachers** are not only evil at night when their deeds can be hidden. They are evil in broad daylight as well. In the end, they will be paid back for the harm they have caused.

¹⁵ These people have left the straightway and wandered off to follow the way of Bil'am Ben-B'or, who loved the wages of doing harm ...

The way of Bil'am believed he could curse what **God** had blessed; his later teaching led the **Israelites** to idolatry and immorality (Num 31:16; Rev2:14). Likewise, the **false teachers** compromise God's truth by immorality and likely idolatry; they will perish like **Bil'am** (Num 31:8).

Unlike other uses and expansions of the material **Second Kefa** shares **Jude**, the following portion of **Second Kefa** succinctly summarizes the stormy imagery **Jude** uses (2 Kefa 2:17; see Jude 12-13). **Second Kefa** then breaks from the material it shares with **Jude** to articulate warnings about the dangers of **false teachers** and their presence within the **Messianic** community.

¹⁶ but was rebuked for his sin—a dumb beast of burden spoke out with a human voice and restrained the prophet's insanity! ¹⁷ Waterless springs they are, mists driven by a gust of wind; for them has been reserved the blackest darkness.

Like springs without water and clouds without rain, the false teachers arrive with a pretense of offering refreshment but, in reality, offer nothing to sustain spiritual growth. Thus, they are destined for the gloom of darkness, eternal hell.

¹⁸ Mouthing grandiosities of nothingness, they play on the desires of the old nature in order to seduce with debaucheries people who have just begun to escape from those whose way of life is wrong. ¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for a person is a slave to whatever has defeated him.

Contrary to the way of spiritual growth, **false teachers** use their communication abilities to arouse the fleshly desires of recent converts to the **Messiah** – references hers as **people who have just begun to escape** – and drag them back into their old lifestyles rather than forward in righteousness. The **false teachers** promise freedom to those who follow their counsel. But they deliver, and experience, slavery to corruption. The **false teachers** cast off sexual restraint in the name of freedom, but they are actually enslaved to their sin without realizing it.

²⁰ Indeed, if they have once escaped the pollutions of the world through knowing our Lord and Deliverer, Yeshua the Messiah, and then have again become entangled and defeated by them, their latter condition has become worse than their former.

Yeshua has offered these people the opportunity to escape – the sin which came at the price of His own life – and they have chosen to return to sin and indulge in it, and encouraged by the **false teachers** to do the same.

²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known the Way of righteousness than, fully knowing, to turn from the holy command delivered to them.

When **false teachers** trick **Messianics** into returning to their previous, unrighteous lifestyle, they will find themselves in a worse state since they know better. The **false teachers** have experienced **Yeshua's** work enough to understand the basic principles of humanity's behalf. As a result, the godliness expected is in direct contrast to the false teachers' actions (see Kefa 2:9).

²² What has happened to them accords with the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own vomit." Yes, "The pig washed itself, only to wallow in the mud!" ~ 2 Kefa 2:12-22 (CJB)

A dog returns to its own vomit, is a quotation of Proverbs 26:11. It emphasizes that false teachers will never change and any attempt to reform is pointless. The origins of the "pig" proverb is unknown, but it must have been popular since Kefa evokes a pearl of common wisdom.¹

In my next post, we will begin to unpack **3 Kefa 1-13** dealing with **The Day of the Lord Will Come**.

¹ Faithlife Study Bible.