

Epistle 91

by George Fox

The sermon warns against the dangers of false prophets and teachers who lead people astray from the truth and ultimately face judgment and punishment.

Scripture: Jeremiah 23:32, Matthew 7:6-23, John 1:4, John 16:2, 2 Peter 2:1, Jude 1:19, Revelation 12:17, Revelation 13:6

Topics: "End Times", "False Prophets"

Description

George Fox preaches about the signs of the end times and the presence of false prophets, deceivers, and mockers who lead people astray with their ungodly ways and teachings. He warns against those who seek personal gain, manipulate the words of God, and persecute the followers of Christ. Fox emphasizes the importance of discernment and staying true to the light and life of God amidst the darkness and deception of the world.

Transcript

All Friends, in the spirit of the living God wait upon God, to learn of and to be taught by him. For now doth the beast open his mouth in blasphemy [Rev 13:6], speaking great swelling words [2 Pet 2:18, Jude 1:16]. And now is the cage of unclean birds [Rev 18:2], and the unclean spirits, which are gone forth into the earth [Mat 12:43?], seen. And now are the locusts seen, and the caterpillars [Psa 78:46] known. And now are the seven thunders [Rev 10:3] uttering their voices.

And now are the hailstones falling [Rev 16:21], and the vials of the wrath of God [Rev 16:1] pouring out upon the beast and the false prophet. And now are the whited walls seen, and the painted sepulchres, who garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, and build the tombs of the prophets, full of dead men's bones [Mat 23:27, 29]. Now are the inwardly ravening wolves seen, which have gotten the sheep's clothing [Mat 7:15]. And now are the false prophets seen, which through covetousness make merchandise of the people [2 Pet 2:1,3].

And now are the thistles, and briars, and thorns, where the figs do not grow [Mat 7:16], seen. And now are they seen which make merchandise of the words of the prophets, Christ, and the apostles, and through pretence make long prayers; who devour widows' houses [Mat 23:14]. And now are such known, who lead silly women captive, who are always learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth [2 Tim 3:6f], some thirty, forty, some sixty years. And now are such known and seen, and manifest with the light, that Christ spake of, that should beat his followers in the synagogues [Acts 22:19], and hale them before magistrates for his name's sake; yea, if they killed them, should think they did God good service [John

16:2].

And now are such teachers seen and known, that sport themselves in the day-time [2 Pet 2:13], and walk after their own ungodly lusts [Jude 1:18]. And now such are seen that go in Cain's way [Jude 1:11], who would murder, and do murder in their hearts, who are in envy, who are the vagabonds, and the fugitives [Gen 4:3-16], who have not a habitation in God, who is love [1 Jn 4:16]. And now are such seen and known, that go in Balaam's way, that love the wages of unrighteousness, gifts and rewards [2 Pet 2:15, Jude 1:11].

And now are such seen and known, that bear rule by their means, and the people love to have it so; holding up the horrible and filthy thing committed in the land [Jer 5:30f], as in Jeremy. And now are such shepherds seen and known, as seek for their gain from their quarters [Isa 56:11]. Now are such seen and known, as seek for the fleece and the wool, and make a prey upon the people [Ezek 34:8]; and such as are hirelings [Micah 3:11], which the Lord sent Ezekiel and Micah to cry against.

And now are such seen and known, which our Lord Jesus Christ cried wo against; who stand praying in the synagogues [Mat 6:5], having the chiefest seats in the assemblies, called of men masters [Mat 23:6f], which devour widows' houses [Mat 23:14]. And now are such deceivers seen and known, that by their lies and lightness have caused the people to err [Jer 23:32]; which speak a divination of their own brain [Jer 14:14], and use their tongues, and say, the Lord sent them, when he never sent them [Jer 23:31f].

And now are the mockers and scorners come, which the scriptures speak of, which mock, stone, and persecute the children of the light [2 Chr 36:16], as they pass up and down the streets; and many have been almost murdered in the highways and steeple-houses by them. And now is the scripture fulfilled, which saith, 'That the beast and the dragon shall make war against the lamb and the saints [Rev 12:17, 17:14, Dan 7:21]; for such are manifest now, who are as natural brute beasts, what they know they know naturally, having not the life that gave forth the scriptures; but are found in the self-separation, (from the spirit of God [Jude 1:19],) having gotten the words, which were declared from the spirit of God, murdering and destroying, (as much as in them lieth,) those that are in the light and life [John 1:4] of those holy men of God, that gave forth the scriptures [2 Pet 1:21].

Now the shame of all their profession is seen, which is abomination unto the Lord, who profess the words declared from the light of God, but are strangers to the light and life. And now the unsavoury things are smelled, tasted of, and seen to be among many of the professors of religion, who are more like swine rending, and like dogs biting and devouring one another [Mat 7:6], than like the children of the light. Which doth manifest them to be contrary to the light; which all that are contrary to, with the light are condemned.

G. F.

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