

BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS

Introduction

- **False Prophets and False Christs**

The Lord Jesus said, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Matthew 7:15). The passage goes on to say that these prophets do many mighty works, but the Lord never knew them. Jesus also taught that there would be “false Christs” (Mt. 24:24). False Christs are taught by false prophets. These prophets devalue the Jesus of the Bible from the position of “God over all blessed forever” (Romans 9:5).

- **Eternal Life is at Stake**

Why is this so important? Because your eternal life is at stake. If you reject who Jesus claimed to be, then according to our Lord, you will die in your sins (John 8:24). He also said that eternal life is based on knowing the “only true God, and Jesus Christ” (Jn. 17:3). The Apostle Paul also said that those who follow a false god will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9).

Three Examples

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or the Mormons) teaches that Jesus was the first born of heavenly parents. Prior to coming to Earth, he had younger brothers and sisters—Lucifer and all the demons, as well as all the other humans who would live on Earth. Jesus *became* a God prior to coming to Earth, so Jesus is one God among many Gods. Other Gods rule over other worlds that they create. All humans have the opportunity to become Gods for their own worlds. The God of this world is our Heavenly Father, who is one in purpose with two other Gods—the Son and the Holy Ghost. Every God in existence had to become a God, and thus there is no God by nature. (For documentation, see the chart at MormonInfo.org.)

2. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (Jehovah’s Witnesses) teaches that Jesus was the first and greatest creation of Jehovah. Jesus was created as a lesser god—Michael the Archangel, who eventually came to earth as a man. He died not on a cross, but on a torture stake, and was raised from the dead not bodily, but as an invisible spirit creature. He came back to earth to rule invisibly through the Watchtower headquarters in 1914. (For documentation, see JWinfo.org.)

3. Islam (Muslims) teaches that Jesus was not God, let alone the Son of God. Jesus was instead one of the greatest prophets. He did not die on the cross, and did not rise from the dead. Rather than dying, God took him to heaven, and he will return in judgment someday. (For documentation, see MuslimInfo.org.)

The True Christ

- **Christians Exalt Jesus Above All**

Whether Catholic, Protestant, or Orthodox, historic Christianity has always valued Jesus to the most exalted position possible (i.e., “God over all blessed forever”). The Bible teaches only one true God (Isaiah 43:10, 44:6, 8, and 24; and Jn. 17:3). So Jesus must either be the true God or a false god. The Bible teaches there are many false gods that are not gods by nature (1 Cor. 8:1-6 and Galatians 4:8). Christianity certainly would not think of Jesus in these terms.

- **The Bible Teaches Jesus is the True God**

The Bible has a much more exalted view of Jesus. The Bible teaches that God has a unique Son (e.g., Psalm 2:12; Proverbs 30:4; and Jn. 3:16). Even though Jesus claimed, “the Father is greater than I” (Jn. 14:28), Jesus also was “making Himself equal with God” and then claimed that everyone should “honor the Son even as they honor the Father” (Jn. 5:18 and 23). Jesus also said He was one with the Father, and thus was making Himself “out to be God” (Jn. 10:30-33). Jesus commended Thomas’ belief when he honored Jesus as “my Lord and my God” (Jn. 20:28-29). Keep in mind that Jesus taught, “No one can serve two masters” (Mt. 6:24). Both John and Paul taught that without the Son, nothing came to be (Jn. 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:13-18—in an effort to make it seem that the Son was created and then He created all “other” things, Jehovah’s Witnesses distort this latter passage in their New World Translation by adding the term “other” to it). Jesus calls Himself the “Alpha and Omega,” “the first and the last,” “the beginning and the end,” and “the Almighty” (Revelation 1:7-8, 17-18, 22:6, 12-20; cf. Isa. 44:6).

- **Christ has Two Natures**

Not only was Jesus a weak and dependent human, but He was also the all powerful God (Philippians 2:5-11). Christians keep these two natures distinct, whereas the cults only have room for the human nature of Christ.

- **God is Triune**

Jesus, as the Son, is just as much the only God there is. The Son is not the Father or the Holy Ghost (e.g., at Jesus’ baptism there are three different persons). The God of the Bible is eternally made up of these three distinct and inseparable persons.

Conclusion

- **Take Jesus at His Word**

Jesus asks for your trust today. He is “the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). He has taken away all your sin (past, present, and future), and simply wants your life. “The Lord is my shepherd” as the Psalms say. Jesus claimed to be the good shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep (Jn. 10:11). There is none greater that you can trust for your salvation.

R. M. Sivulka
CourageousChristiansUnited.org
Rob@CourageousChristiansUnited.org
P.O. Box 1374
West Jordan, UT 84084