



Jesus described two (2) groups of false prophets that Christians – and even those who sympathize with the Christian faith – must be aware of, if they're to safely endure the time of Anti-Christ and his legions: He described the first group as "wolves in sheep's clothing." They were active during the First Century and they are with us, in abundance, today. He characterized that second group as "wolves in shepherd's clothing." They're to appear later—a little known Bible fact. Like faithful and true prophets, "wolves in sheep's clothing" carry the "Jesus is Lord!" banner. Each "wolf in shepherd's clothing" will proclaim *himself* to be Christ.



This is what Jesus said about false prophets, a.k.a. wolves in SHEEP'S clothing. (The *italicized*-bracketed text, within all quotes, here, is mine):

- > "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." —Matthew 7:15 (Context: You should be able to I.D. them by their fruits.)
- > "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, [*that*] I [*Jesus*] am Christ; and shall deceive many." —Matthew 24:4,5 (Context: When will Christ return?)
- > "And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any [man] deceive you: For many shall come in my name, saying, I [*Jesus*] am [Christ]; and shall deceive many." —Mark 13:5,6 (Context: When will Christ return?)
- ✓ "And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I [*Jesus*] am [*Christ*]; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them." —Luke 21:8 (Context: When will Christ return?)

This is what Jesus said about the false Christs, a.k.a. wolves in SHEPHERD'S clothing. Their signs and wonders will be very real/genuine, so as to effectively deceive uninformed and misinformed Christian believers...and their clergy:

- > "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here [is] Christ, or there, believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it [were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect. —Matthew 24:23,24 (Context: When will Christ return?)
- > "And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here [is] Christ; or lo, [he] is there; believe [him] not: For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if [it were] possible, even the elect." —Mark 13:21,22 (Context: When will Christ return?)

What is the reasonable likelihood that any maverick false prophet could deceive many, today? Is it all possible in your mind that those who've gained leadership positions with or, at least, are credentialed by today's mainstream denominations are uniquely positioned to deceive many? If there were to emerge a strong maverick prophet – false or faithful and true – wouldn't today's mainstream religious establishment promptly crush him? Doing that would require substantial power. Someone recently defined the word "cult" as a religious group that has not gained political power. By that new definition, neither Atheism nor Secular Humanism can be credibly given the "cult" label. Those groups (especially the Atheists) are behaving more and more like traditional organized religion. And what religious group is more aggressive in its evangelizing and proselytizing?...except maybe the Moslems are *physically* more aggressive.

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Whether observably wielding it or not, how does today's visible church gain and maintain such power? Here's what I think:


- ❶ They teach the uninformed faithful only what to study in God's word...to confirm "what 'we' believe." By contrast, faithful and true prophets seek to help the faithful learn how to study the Bible...to discover the First-Century Truth, the only truth that can make a man free.
- ❷ They systematically reinforce the notion that laymen – their presumed subordinates – must "come under the authority of" their institutions and appointed clergy. Any layman who dares quote pertinent scriptures in rebuttal, is quickly labeled "insubordinate." Here's what Jesus said about that mindset:
  - > "...Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you...whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." —Jesus, at Matthew 20:25-27
  - > "...he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased..." —Jesus, at Matthew 23:11,12
  - > "If any man desire to be first, [the same] shall be last of all, and servant of all." —Jesus, at Mark 9:35
  - > "Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you:...And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all." —Jesus, at Mark 10:42-44
- ❸ They build strong financial empires. To build and to maintain those empires they enslave their uninformed faithful, financially, by teaching them they should "give 'til it hurts" or "give sacrificially." Many local pastors have even taken to the clever con of some Christian TV superstars, who successfully teach their uninformed viewers the concept of "seedtime and harvest"—scriptural, but laughably impertinent. They entice poor people to send in their hard-earned "seed faith" money, with the promise of multiple-fold returns. Do they ignore the pertinent scriptures subconsciously or consciously?
  - > Paul earned his living as a tentmaker. —Acts 18:3
  - > "Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. —Paul, at Acts 20:34
  - > "Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit^... —Paul, at 2 Corinthians 2:17 [NIV]
    - ^ This HOTLINK can help you to fully grasp the message of that verse: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_813cfeea72964de5bdcc8d7277032aca.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_813cfeea72964de5bdcc8d7277032aca.pdf)
  - > "...children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. —Paul, at 2 Corinthians 12:14 (See, also, verses 11-18.)
  - > "For you...know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you...For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat..."...Such people [should] settle down and earn the bread they eat...If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter...Do not associate with him..." —Paul, at 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12 [NIV]
    - ^ He was clearly not referring, the rank-and-file church people at Thessalonica, but to their preachers and teachers! A re-read of the entire context, there should confirm that observation for you.
  - > "For the love of money is the root of all evil...But thou, O man of God, flee these things..." —Paul, at 1 Timothy 6:10,11
  - > "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight [thereof], not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind." —1 Peter 5:2

Hmmm...Might Paul have been suggesting that the establishment of a professional clergy would inevitably corrupt the visible church?^ Per Jesus' "Great Commission" at Matthew 28:19-20, is "the ministry" a legitimate professional career path?^

^ This HOTLINK is to a "SHORTS" article that should help you answer that question for yourself—  
[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_da92d09bf6554a3e826d3e28755a83f2.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_da92d09bf6554a3e826d3e28755a83f2.pdf)

What strong maverick wolf in sheep's clothing could possibly succeed in deceiving many in the face of such formidable opposition? What maverick faithful and true prophet could possibly succeed in bringing God 's original message of Truth to many in the face of such formidable opposition? When mobsters "corner" a market, they stereotypically crush all vulnerable competition. That's how they stay in power. (For younger readers who may not know, a strong synonym for "maverick" is "lone wolf." Both terms refer to people who act alone—without the sanctions or credentials of any established organization or institution.)

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It is my respectful conclusion that this phenomenon, alone, explains how the following can be true:


- > "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap unto themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." —Paul, at 2 Timothy 4:3,4  
That time is now.

Have you embraced your denomination's "what 'we' believe" platform? Have you learned WHAT to study in the Bible...to confirm "what 'we' believe?" That's how religious institutions effectively control the fearful and the uninformed. Will you break free to endure sound doctrine? If so, we will gladly help you learn HOW to study the Bible...to discover the Truth that can make you eternally free. We'll even give you a collection of tools for doing that effectively. You may never have even heard of some of those tools. Become a frequent visitor of the [www.Link1.info](http://www.Link1.info) site to learn all you can about that. We're hoping you'll then share with those whom you love what you will have learned. (That's how we all can fulfill Jesus' "Great Commission." (That is clearly not an assignment for paid career professional christians.)

- > "There are two kinds of light—the glow that illuminates, and the glare that obscures." —James Thurber
- > "The truth that makes men free is the truth that men don't want to hear." —unknown

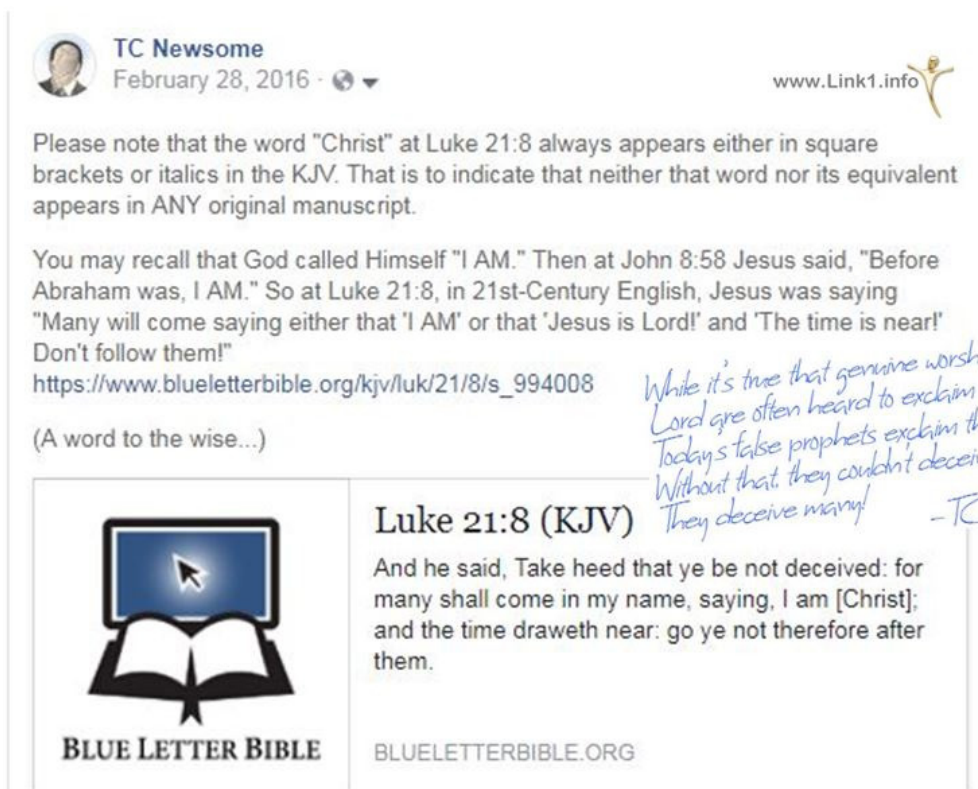
Given this collection of scriptural and observational evidence whom do YOU now think are the "wolves in sheep's clothing" that Jesus warned us about? While pondering that, please remember that Jesus said those false prophets will succeed in deceiving MANY—even the very elect, if that were possible.



Reflect, too, on that question above— "What is the reasonable likelihood that any maverick false prophet could deceive many, today?" Consider what you've read here, of course. But then trace the logic for yourself. Study to connect the pertinent scriptural "dots" to confirm that two and two always add up to four. You may also confirm Grabel's Law: "Two is not equal to three, not even for large values of two." God's gift of a sound mind is a terrible, terrible thing to waste.


—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! [www.Link1.info/contact-us](http://www.Link1.info/contact-us).

To participate in sensible Bible-related discussions, join us at TC's Friends Club. Here's the hot link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>




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Please note that the word "Christ" at Luke 21:8 always appears either in square brackets or italics in the KJV. That is to indicate that neither that word nor its equivalent appears in ANY original manuscript.

You may recall that God called Himself "I AM." Then at John 8:58 Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I AM." So at Luke 21:8, in 21st-Century English, Jesus was saying "Many will come saying either that 'I AM' or that 'Jesus is Lord!' and 'The time is near! Don't follow them!'"  
[https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/luk/21/8/s\\_994008](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/luk/21/8/s_994008)

(A word to the wise...)


  
**BLUE LETTER BIBLE**

**Luke 21:8 (KJV)**  
And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am [Christ]; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

[BLUELETTERBIBLE.ORG](http://BLUELETTERBIBLE.ORG)

*While it's true that genuine worshippers of Our Lord are often heard to exclaim 'Jesus is Lord!' Today's false prophets exclaim that, too. Without that, they couldn't deceive many. They deceive many! -TC*

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