

Does one who prophecies have to be correct 100% of the time for their messages to be considered authentically from God?

“Yes,” is the mainstream Christian reply – a doctrine of demons. The frequent assertion springs from a manifest misapplication of Deuteronomy 18:22, *“When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”*

This verse pertains to God’s children being led away from Him by unholy spiritual entities who seek to cause them to forget God (Deu. 13 – 18).

The God-breathed Word which is useful for correcting declares Huldah, Isaiah & Jonah as authentic prophets:

2 Chr. 34:22 So Hilkiah and the others who had received orders from the king went to visit Huldah the prophetess...”

In verses 27-28 of the same chapter, she prophecies in the Name of the LORD that the king will die in peace. But in chapter 35, verses 22-25, the king died in war (due to what 1 Sam. 15:23 describes as rebellion / witchcraft).

Example #2

Isa. 38:1 During that time, Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. Then Amoz's son Isaiah the prophet came to him and told him, “This is what the LORD says: 'Put your house in order, because you are going to die. You won't recover.'”

Isa 38:5 ... “I've heard your prayer and I've seen your tears; so I will add fifteen years to your life.”

Hezekiah did not die as was obediently spoken by the prophet in the Name of the LORD.

Example #3

Jonah 3:1 This message from the LORD came to Jonah a second time:

Jonah 3:2 “Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

Jonah 3:3 So Jonah got up and went to Nineveh to do what LORD had ordered...

Jonah 3:4 As Jonah started into the city on the first day's journey, he proclaimed the message, "40 days more and Nineveh will be overthrown!" (some versions correctly translate “overthrown” as “destroyed”)

Jonah 3:10 God took note of what they did—that they turned from their evil ways. Because God relented concerning the trouble about which he had warned them, he did not carry it out.

Nineveh was granted the gift of repentance and endured for another season, despite what Jonah correctly prophesied. He did not say “Repent or perish,” he obediently prophesied that Nineveh would be destroyed in 40 days. And no wonder, Jeremiah 18:8 reveals that our God allows us to participate in how things turn out, “If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought (planned) to do unto them.”

By citing numerous Biblical examples of prophets “missing it” (the misinformed Christian would call it), I present an authentic and holy doctrine that supports and encourages what the Apostle Paul asserted in 1 Cor. 14:1, *“Keep on pursuing love, and keep on desiring spiritual gifts, especially the ability to prophesy.”* Hmm, why would a well-meaning Christian prophecy, “miss it” and then “presume” to ever prophecy again? Because all Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. The well-meaning Christian would not give up because 1 Cor. 14:1 teaches him/her to push forward in the instruction to walk in competent ability. The aforementioned “doctrine” (it’s not!) of Deu. 18:22 would prevent the youngling from ever obeying 1 Cor. 14:1 again.

Conclusion

A Christian doctrine is what the entire Bible has to say on a particular subject; in general, it is an error to “create” a principle or doctrine out of a single Bible verse. Again, the particular error springing from Deu. 18:22 has been

devastating to the Body of Christ for far too long – a manifest affront to Truth (Jesus). Often, believers find it easier to point a critical finger at the messenger rather than examining their own hearts for accountability. Misapplying Deu. 18:22 encourages this error of dodging personal responsibility.

Jer. 18:7 If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it,
Jer. 18:8 and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.

Jer. 18:9 And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it,
Jer. 18:10 and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it.

Job 34:29 ... He watches over both nation and individual alike.