

# PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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## THE WORTHLESSNESS OF COTTON CANDY

In the long ago there were “prophets” in Jerusalem who preached false, but feel-good, sermons with the central theme being “**God will accept you no matter what you do.**” Yes, they preached, what I call, cotton candy sermons. I’m sure audiences ate up their sugary messages. God, however, was not pleased. Let’s read what He had to say to those cotton-candy preachers.

*“And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD. They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word. Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I have not spoken? Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD. And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD. Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar: Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it. Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it? Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even rend it with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great hailstones in my fury to consume it. So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. Thus will I accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and upon them that have daubed it with untempered mortar, and will say unto you, The wall is no more, neither they that daubed it; To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord GOD” (Ezek. 13:1-16).* What stern and sad words! Let’s now underscore two of the reasons why those prophets’ preaching of cotton candy was simply worthless.

**Their messages were not what God wanted preached and were messages that didn’t truly help the audience.** These preachers were preaching peace (vs. 10) when God wanted the impending doom of His people preached. Compare the words of those candy-mouths with the message of a true man of God: “*Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD unto the land of Israel; An end, **the end is come upon the four corners of the land.** Now is the end come upon thee, and **I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations.** And **mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity:** but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD; **An evil, an only evil, behold, is come.** An end is come, the end is come: it watcheth for thee; behold, it is come. The morning is come unto thee, O thou that dwellest in the land: the time is come, **the day of trouble is near,** and not the sounding again of the mountains. **Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee:** and I will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense thee for all thine abominations. And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: I will recompense thee according to thy ways and thine abominations that are in the midst of thee; and **ye shall know that I am the LORD that smiteth**” (Ezek. 7:1-9). Still today there are plenty of “preachers” fail to warn people of what awaits those who are in rebellion to their maker (Lk. 16:19-26; Mt. 25:46). They continually serve up cotton candy because most folks think cotton candy tastes good and because cotton candy sermons will fill the pews. Yet, such preachers never really equip anyone to stand before the Lord at the judgment (2 Cor. 5:10). Instead, just like the preachers in Ezekiel’s time, the cotton candy preachers of today seduce people to trust in untempered mortar (Ezek. 13:10) that will not endure past the here and now (Ezek. 13:12-14). Yes, sadly, the plain fact of the matter is that so many preachers out there – a great number of them being “brethren” – have blood on their hands (Ezek. 3:17-18) in that they never get around to reproving, rebuking, or truly exhorting anybody (2 Tim. 4:1-2).*

**Their sermons turned God into their enemy.** Through Ezekiel, God said to those cotton candyites: “*...Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD. Thus will I accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and upon them that have daubed it with untempered mortar, and will say unto you, The wall is no more, neither they that daubed it; To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord GOD” (Ezek. 13:9, 15-16).* Oh that the confectionary preachers of today would grasp this (cf. Ax. 13:6-10).