

# Ezekiel 13:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!

## Analysis

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"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!" False prophets speak from imagination rather than revelation. The phrase "follow their own spirit" contrasts with genuine prophets who deliver God's words. The "seen nothing" exposes their lack of divine vision despite claims. This pattern continues: false teachers invent messages pleasing audiences rather than proclaiming uncomfortable truth. The Reformed emphasis on Scripture's sole authority guards against adding human speculation to divine revelation.

## Historical Context

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False prophets plagued Israel throughout history, offering false assurances of peace when judgment loomed (591 BC). Jeremiah faced similar opposition (Jeremiah 23:16-17). These false prophets spoke what people wanted to hear, gaining popularity while true prophets suffered rejection. The exiles preferred comforting lies over uncomfortable truth. This pattern repeats: false teachers gain followings by tickling ears (2 Timothy 4:3) while faithful ministers face opposition. Discernment requires testing messages against Scripture, not popularity.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How do you distinguish between messages from God versus human speculation dressed in religious language?
2. What characteristics identify false prophets who follow their own spirit?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּכֶבֶל יְמִם פְּנַבְּלָה יְמִם  
H3541 Thus saith the Lord GOD Woe prophets unto the foolish  
H559 H136 H3069 H1945 H5921 H5030 H5036

בְּאֹהֶן וְלֹבְלָתִים אֲשֶׁר  
H834 that follow H310 their own spirit H1115 and have seen  
H1980 H7307 H7200

## Additional Cross-References

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**Lamentations 2:14** (Prophecy): Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.

**Hosea 9:7** (Spirit): The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.

**Proverbs 15:14** (Parallel theme): The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

**Jeremiah 23:1** (References Lord): Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

**Ezekiel 34:2** (Prophecy): Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be

to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

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