

**Phoney Phemale Prophets:
The Abuse of the Prophetic Office**

Ezekiel 13:17–23

Veritas Adult Community

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Preamble

¹⁷As for you, human, set your face against the women of your people, the ones who are proclaiming self-inspired prophecies. Prophesy against them ¹⁸and say: “Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:

The Charges Against the Witches

‘Woe to those who sew magic bands on every wrist, and who make amulets for the heads of every size to set traps for human lives! Will you trap the lives of my people, but preserve your own lives? ¹⁹You have profaned me before my people for handfuls of barley and bread crumbs—slaying lives that should not die and preserving lives that should not live—by your lying to my people who fall for lies.’

The Double Announcement of Judgment

²⁰ “Therefore, thus has the Lord YHWH declared: “Look, I am against your magic bands with which you trap the lives. I will rip them from your arms; I will release the lives whom you are trapping that they may fly away. ²¹I will rip off your amulets; I will rescue my people from your grasp. Then they will no longer be prey in your hands, and you will know that I am YHWH.

²²Because you have deceitfully demoralized the righteous, whom I would not hurt, and have encouraged the wicked not to turn from their evil conduct in order that they might live, ²³therefore, you will never again see empty visions or practise divination, for I will rescue my people from your grasp. Then you will know that I am YHWH.””

Introduction

1. Preamble (13:17–18a)

Female Prophets in the Bible: Miriam (Exod 15:20), Deborah (Judg 4:4), Hannah (1 Sam 2:1), Isaiah’s wife (Isa 8:3), Huldah (2 Kgs 22:14; 2 Chr 34:22), Noadiah (Neh 6:14), Mary (Luke 1:46–45), Anna (Luke 2:36–39), Philip’s daughters (Acts 21:8–9); Joel 2:28–29 [Acts 2:17–18].

2. The Charges against the Phoney Pemale Prophets (vv. 18b–19)

- a. Trapping Human Prey
- b. Lying to the People

3. The Double Announcements of Judgment (vv. 20–22)

a. The First Announcement (vv. 20–21)

A	The divine action	I will tear them (the bands) from your arms;
B	The divine aim	I will set free the persons,
C	The purpose/result	That they may fly away.
A'	The divine action	I will tear off your amulets;
B'	The divine aim	I will rescue my people from your hands,
C'	The purpose/result	That they may cease to be prey in your hands.

b. The Second Announcement (vv. 22–23)

Application

1. The people of God are most vulnerable to occultic influences in times of crisis.
2. The “charm” of magic is a trap used by the prince of darkness to seduce unsuspecting victims.
3. The people of God must resist the temptation to exploit spiritual connections for personal advantage.
4. Those who occupy positions of power will answer to God for the way they have exercised their authority.