

# Bible Study Series: How to Detect False Teachers

## “Rightly Dividing God’s Word”- Part 3

### Introduction:

1. Here in 2 Timothy 2:14-18, we see that a failure to rightly divide results in:
  - Unprofitable **bickering** - vs. 14, 16a
  - The destruction of **people** - vs. 14, 17a
  - False **teachers** - vs. 17
  - False **doctrine** - vs. 18
2. In this lesson, we will share four guiding principles that will enable the Christian to rightly divide God’s Word.

I. **You must carefully examine *who* God is addressing.**

II. **You must always place Scripture in its proper *context*.**

III. **You must hold to a *literal* interpretation of God’s Word.**

IV. **You must understand the division between *prophecy* and the *mystery*.**

A. The first hint to the most crucial division in the Bible is found in Genesis 1:1.

- God would have two very distinct programs and purposes for both the heaven and the earth.

B. What are these two distinct purposes?

1. The earth would involve the subject of **prophecy**, that is, Christ one day ruling and reigning over a visible kingdom on the literal earth in Jerusalem.  
2 Peter 1:16-19
2. The heaven would involve the subject of the **mystery**, that is, a people whose citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), raised with Christ and seated in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:6), and blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3).

C. The Bible is basically divided into these two great subjects.

D. Although prophecy is extremely interesting to study and can be of much value, one must keep in mind that prophecy deals directly with **Israel** and the nations and has nothing to do with the body of Christ.

1. Prophecy deals with God's promises of an **earthly** kingdom to the nation of Israel.
2. The mystery deals with God's promises of **heavenly** blessings to the body of Christ, the church.

E. Here is a chart that will help you understand the important division between prophecy and the mystery age we live in today.

<u><b>Prophecy</b></u>	<u><b>Mystery</b></u>
1. Concerned with an earthly kingdom, a political organization. Daniel 2:44, Matthew 6:10	1. Concerned with a heavenly body, a living organism. 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27, Ephesians 4:12-16
2. Reaches its culmination on <b>earth</b> . Jeremiah 23:5, Matthew 6:10	2. Reaches its culmination in <b>heaven</b> . Ephesians 1:3, 2:5-6, Philippians 3:20-21
3. Christ is <b>king</b> over an earthly kingdom. Jeremiah 23:5, Isaiah 9:6-7, Zechariah 14:9, Revelation 20:4-6	3. Christ is <b>head</b> over a heavenly body. Ephesians 1:19-23, Colossians 1:18
4. Prophesied since the world began. Luke 1:68-70, Acts 3:21, 2 Peter 1:20-21	4. Kept <b>secret</b> since the world began. Romans 16:25, Ephesians 3:3-6
5. Israel enjoys supremacy over Gentile nations. Isaiah 60:10-12, 4:2-3, 11:12	5. No <b>difference</b> between Jew or Gentile. Romans 10:12, 11:32, Ephesians 2:16-17, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Galatians 3:28
6. Gentile nations are blessed through Israel's <b>rise</b> . Psalm 72:17, Isaiah 2:2-3, 60:1-3, Zechariah 8:22-23	6. Gentile nations are blessed through Israel's <b>fall</b> . Acts 28:27-28, Romans 11:11, 12, 15
7. Concerned with Christ's rule on <b>Earth</b> . Isaiah 59:20, Zechariah 14:4	7. Concerned with Christ's position in <b>heaven</b> . Romans 8:34, Ephesians 1:20-23, Colossians 3:1-3
8. The gospel of the kingdom committed to the <b>twelve</b> apostles. Matthew 10:5-7, Acts 1:6-8, 3:19-26	8. The gospel of the grace of God committed to primarily one man, <b>Paul</b> . Ephesians 3:1-3, 8-9, Colossians 1:24-27