

January 3, 2026

Beware and Be Aware

You heard Jeri earlier doing something that I am about to share with you, a word play when she was talking about getting ahead of your giants, she conveyed that David got a head of his giant (Goliath)

Knowing that Connie was going to be sharing about selecting a word to focus on for the year got me thinking not about a single word but rather about the proximity of words. What do I mean by proximity? What I mean is having two words that appear very close in sound and potentially meaning yet are distinct.

I want to share two examples with you and hopefully some further wisdom as it pertains to your journey and how you should proceed.

Mat 7:15 "Beware of the false prophets! They come to you wearing sheep's clothing, but underneath they are hungry wolves!

Prophet, one who bears a message from Adonai, yet a false prophet is one who speaks presumptuously or with intent to deceive.

Mat 7:16 You will recognize them by their fruit. Can people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?

Mat 7:17 Likewise, every healthy tree produces good fruit, but a poor tree produces bad fruit.

Mat 7:18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, or a poor tree good fruit.

Mat 7:19 Any tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire!

Mat 7:20 So you will recognize them by their fruit.

How are we to recognize these false prophets and their fruit. I have shared this verse many times as our source to discern and decipher that which we are to be cognizant of.

Joh 14:25 "I have told you these things while I am still with you.

Joh 14:26 But the Counselor, the Ruach HaKodesh, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything; that is, he will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Joh 14:27 "What I am leaving with you is shalom—I am giving you my shalom. I don't give the way the world gives. Don't let yourselves be upset or frightened.

And the warnings continue throughout scripture...

2Pe 2:1 But among the people there were also false prophets, just as there will be false teachers among you. Under false pretenses they will introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, and thus bring on themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 Many will follow their debaucheries; and because of them, the true Way will be maligned.

2Pe 2:3 In their greed they will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their punishment, decreed long ago, is not idle; their destruction is not asleep!

These warnings are not new, but are constant throughout Scripture...

Deu 13:1 "Everything I am commanding you, you are to take care to do. Do not add to it or subtract from it.

Deu 13:2 "If a prophet or someone who gets messages while dreaming arises among you and he gives you a sign or wonder,

Deu 13:3 and the sign or wonder comes about as he predicted when he said, 'Let's follow other gods, which you have not known; and let us serve them,'

Deu 13:4 you are not to listen to what that prophet or dreamer says. For Adonai your God is testing you, in order to find out whether you really do love Adonai your God with all your heart and being.

Beware: to be cautious or alert about potential danger or trouble. It is often used as a warning to advise someone to be careful of something or someone that may pose a risk.

intransitive verb

1. To be on guard against; be cautious of.
2. To be cautious; exert caution.
"We had to beware of the icy patches on the road. Beware of the dog."
3. To be on one's guard; to be cautious; to take care; -- commonly followed by of or lest before the thing that is to be avoided.

Aware: having or showing realization, perception, or knowledge about something. It implies being vigilant and alert to one's surroundings or circumstances.

adjective

1. Having knowledge or discernment of something.
"was aware of the difference between the two versions; became aware that the music had stopped."
2. Attentive and well informed.
3. Vigilant; watchful.

To beware means you need to be aware. You are being warned and that not all is kosher. Ministries need to be tested before you invest your time and expose yourselves to their teachings. I have shared two such ministries...

<https://www.119ministries.com/about-us/>

<https://yrm.org/mission-statement/>

Of these two ministries there are two things that are very apparent. Unless you know what to look for you will not see it. What I have shared with you are the mission statements of these ministries. The two prominent observations include:

1. Use of the name of God as is translated in ignorance by pronouncing the vowel used, yet not knowing that the vowels are for the word Adonai. If this isn't ignorance but the ignoring of such truth, that is even worse.
2. The lack of identification of the Jewish people or Israel as part of their vision and purpose towards their mission statement.

These two observations convey that these ministries and others like them are not Messianic Jewish ministries but are Hebrew roots ministries who's priority is in correcting the church of the error in their ways, yet no mention of the promises of God in restoring Israel and the Jewish people by sharing the truth about Yeshua ha Mashiach.

When did God First reveal His name?

He revealed it to Moshe in Exodus 3.

How did He reveal it?

Exo 3:13 Moshe said to God, "Look, when I appear before the people of Isra'el and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you'; and they ask

me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?"

Exo 3:14 God said to Moshe, "Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh [*I am/will be what I am/will be*]," and added, "Here is what to say to the people of Isra'el: 'Ehyeh [*I Am or I Will Be*] has sent me to you.' "

Exo 3:15 God said further to Moshe, "Say this to the people of Isra'el: 'Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh (יהוה) [*Adonai*], the God of your fathers, the God of Avraham, the God of Yitz'chak and the God of Ya`akov, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered generation after generation.

His name was revealed by being spoken, audibly to Moshe first. Moshe would go on to share this with his brother Aharon. Then Aharon, it would be transmitted to his descendents because it was to be used by the priests.

When was it used?

Num 6:22 Adonai said to Moshe,

Num 6:23 "Speak to Aharon and his sons, and tell them that this is how you are to bless the people of Isra'el: you are to say to them,

Num 6:24 'Y'varekh'kha Adonai v'yishmerekha. [*May Adonai bless you and keep you.*]

Num 6:25 Ya'er Adonai panav eleikha vichunekka. [*May Adonai make his face shine on you and show you his favor.*]

Num 6:26 Yissa Adonai panav eleikha v'yasem l'kha shalom. [*May Adonai lift up his face toward you and give you peace.*]

Num 6:27 "In this way they are to put my name on the people of Isra'el, so that I will bless them."

Israel was instructed and therefore warned...

Exo 20:7 א "You are not to use lightly the name of Adonai your God, because Adonai will not leave unpunished someone who uses his name lightly.

Lightly conveys being made common, but it was to be revered.

Israel has always been warned by Adonai...

Jer 23:13 "I have seen inappropriate conduct in the prophets of Shomron—they prophesied by Ba`al and led my people Isra'el astray.

Jer 23:14 But in the prophets of Yerushalayim I have seen a horrible thing—they

commit adultery, live in lies, so encouraging evildoers that none returns from his sin. For me they have all become like S'dom, its inhabitants like `Amora."

Jer 23:15 Therefore, this is what Adonai-Tzva'ot says concerning the prophets: "I will feed them bitter wormwood and make them drink poisonous water, for ungodliness has spread through all the land from the prophets of Yerushalayim."

Seven messages like this one through the Prophet Jeremiah. More warning through the other Prophets.

So, why wouldn't believers in Messiah be warned as well.

So are these ministries being ignorant or intentional in what they are doing?

The second word combination.

To Ignore...

transitive verb

1. To refuse to pay attention to; disregard.
2. To throw out or reject as false or ungrounded; -- said of a bill rejected by a grand jury for lack of evidence. See Ignoramus.

To be Ignorant...

Ignorant means lacking knowledge or education about a particular subject or being unaware of something. It can refer to a general state of unawareness or a specific lack of understanding.

Which is worse

To ignore is worse than being ignorant.

One is intentional while the other can be corrected.

Whether a congregation or ministry it isn't solely about what they believe, "their statement of faith" but it is about their Vision, Mission and Purpose.

What is their reason for existing. How will they do what they have set out to do.

Do not ignore His Word
Do not ignore His Warnings

To be aware means you cannot be ignorant, you cannot be lacking in knowledge because to be aware means that you are seeking Him, not leaning on your own understanding but trusting in Him...

Pro 3:1 My son, don't forget my teaching, keep my commands in your heart;

Pro 3:2 for they will add to you many days, years of life and peace.

Pro 3:3 Do not let grace and truth leave you—bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

Pro 3:4 Then you will win favor and esteem in the sight of God and of people.

Pro 3:5 Trust in Adonai with all your heart; do not rely on your own understanding.

Pro 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge him; then he will level your paths.

Pro 3:7 Don't be conceited about your own wisdom; but fear Adonai, and turn from evil.

Pro 3:8 This will bring health to your body and give strength to your bones.