

## The Coming Prophet – Deut 18:15-22

**Introduction** – Entering into the Promised Land, Moses is giving the people practical applications from the Ten Words. Here, with regard to prophetic authority, Moses speaks prophetically of a Prophet Who will one day come. Moses is speaking of Jesus Christ and we learn from this passage how the entire story of Israel is a type of what God is doing now in our age.

**The Greater Prophet** (v15) – Moses speaks of “a Prophet” that the LORD God will raise up (v15). While other prophets were raised up by God throughout the history of Israel, the New Testament teaches us that Moses was speaking of Jesus Christ (Acts 3:22-26). As Christians, we must follow this understanding obediently. Some want to argue that Peter is taking poetic license and stretching the meaning of these verses in Deuteronomy. But Scripture teaches us that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the kindness of God manifest to the people at Sinai. Only after that are we to see the lesser prophets given in partial fulfillment over the history of Israel. The lesser prophets speak of Jesus Christ and the days of the New Covenant fulfillment (Acts 3:24).

**The Mediator You Desired** (vv15-19)– This Prophet must be listened to (v15), but is given because of the proper desires of the people at Horeb for a mediator (vv16-18). When Moses was on the mountain, the people at the foot of the mountain were panic stricken (Deut 5:23-27). There is a proper fear of the LORD that causes us to need a Mediator to work between us. Jesus, One who is like Moses, is that Mediator (Heb 12:22-24). This is why we come to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ, our Mediator.

**My Words in His Mouth** (v18) – This is what prophets do, and this is what the Great Prophet did. Many times, Jesus made clear that He spoke the words of His Father (i.e. John 12:49-50). So, Jesus Christ is the Prophet, the Mediator, that Israel asked for and that Moses promised. And He came with a great warning: “*And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him*” (v19, also Acts 3:23, Luke 24:25).

**Grace Prophesied** (1 Pet 1:10-12) – Peter would continue to preach and write about this magnificent grace which was for all nations. The Gospel of Grace which he preached was the same message the prophets had foretold. Those prophets not only spoke of Jesus Christ, they spoke by the Spirit of Christ (v11). Old Testament prophets were prophets because they spoke of Jesus Christ and spoke as the Spirit of Christ spoke from within them.

**Old and New Testament** – This is a good time to reiterate the relationship between the Old and New Testament. Contrary to many mistaken views of the Bible, the Old and New Testament are one story. We often draw contrasts where the scriptures draw parallels. Paul tells Timothy to study and preach the Old Testament (2 Tim 3:16-17) because it is all profitable for New Testament saints. The words of the NT presuppose a knowledge of and belief in the OT. Jesus made clear He did not come to abolish the teachings of the OT (Matt 5:17). *The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy* (Rev 19:10).

**Testing the Prophets** (Deut 18:20-22) – The listener must obey the voice of Christ (v19), but there are tests as to whether the lesser prophets were speaking on Christ’s behalf. One of two tests is here: the word spoken must come to pass (vv21-22). We saw this and the other test in Deut 13, the other being that the word must be spoken in the name of the true God. In other words, the prophet must be orthodox and accurate.

**Jesus Christ, our Judge, our King, our Priest, our Prophet** – Looking back over Deut 16:18 – 18:22 we see that Christ fulfills the offices of Prophet, Priest and King. Everything coheres in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Greater Judge, the Greater King, the Greater Priest, and the King of kings. Whenever the prophets spoke or acted in obedience, they were speaking and acting as Jesus Christ, because He was speaking through them. And this goes deeper, for Jesus Christ is the very Word of God which spoke all things into existence (John 1:1ff). This eternal Word never stops speaking. This eternal Word is never silent, even if we are deaf or refuse to listen. You cannot get eternal life or real wisdom if you do not come to Him and listen.

**To Love Truth is to Love Christ** – You cannot love wisdom without loving Jesus Christ. The Old and New Testament does not preach propositions which all connect for you to roll around in your head; they preach of a Person, Your LORD and God, and if you refuse to heed Him, He will hold you accountable. But you are to see Him in the proclamation of all the Word of God. He is the true Son of David, the greater Solomon. He is the true King David, the true High Priest, the greater Moses, the Seed of Abraham. He is the second Adam and the only True Man. We were vandalized in the old Adam, ruined images of God until He came and remade all things, redeeming us out of our bondage and revealing all truth to us in His Holy Spirit. The words on paper point to the living Word, the prophecies to the true Prophet, the propositions to the incarnate Word of God. Find yourself in Him and you will find yourself in a world being saved, a world being made new.