

A Prophet Like Moses

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus holds three offices--Prophet, Priest, and Potentate (or King).
 - 1. Jesus Christ is a prophet.
 - a. When Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly, the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee" (Mt. 21:11).
 - b. When Jesus showed the Samaritan woman at the well his ability to know about her life, she said, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet" (Jn. 4:19).
 - 2. Through Moses, himself a prophet, God promised to raise up a prophet for his people--Jesus Christ is that prophet.
- B. There is much discussion as to whether or not this text refers to Jesus.
 - 1. The New Testament makes clear this text refers to Jesus.
 - a. When Philip found Nathanael, he said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets wrote" (Jn. 1:45)--Philip likely had this passage in mind.
 - b. Peter applied this passage to Jesus (Acts 3:22-23).
 - c. Jesus said that Moses wrote about him (Jn. 5:45-47)--Likely, Jesus had this text in mind.
 - 2. When Jesus came into this world, the Jews were looking for this Prophet.
 - a. Priests and Levites came and asked John the Baptist if he were the Prophet (Jn. 1:21).
 - b. After Jesus fed the five thousand, the men who saw the sign said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world" (Jn. 6:14).
 - c. When people heard Jesus' teaching, they said, "Truly this is the Prophet" (Jn. 7:40).
 - 3. Jesus is clearly the Prophet of whom Moses spoke.
- C. Let's examine this text to see what we can learn about Jesus.

THE PROPHET WOULD BE LIKE MOSES, vv. 15-17

- A. The Lord would raise up for the people a prophet, v. 15a.
 - 1. Just what is a prophet to do?
 - a. Many have the mistaken idea that all a prophet does is predict the future.
 - b. The term prophet means:
 - 1) One who speaks forth oracles.
 - 2) Aaron is called Moses' prophet (Ex. 7:1).
 - a) According to Ex. 4:16, Aaron was called Moses' mouthpiece.
 - b) Aaron served as Moses' spokesman or prophet.
 - 3) A prophet is one who speaks for God.
 - a) This is shown by the frequent use of "Thus says the LORD" in the prophetic writings.
 - b) The prophets did not speak by their own authority, but they spoke for God.
 - c. As a prophet, Jesus would serve as God's spokesman.
 - 1) "As My Father taught Me, I speak these things" (Jn. 8:28).
 - 2) "Whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak" (Jn. 12:50).
 - 3) "The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works" (Jn. 14:10).
 - 2. God had just banned witchcraft, soothsaying, and the like from Israel, vv. 10-14.
 - a. Instead of using pagan methods to have contact with the unknown, the Israelites were to depend upon God.
 - b. Therefore, God would raise up a Prophet.
- B. This Prophet would be like Moses.
 - 1. This Prophet would not be like Moses in every particular.
 - a. Many preachers have sermons which compare Moses and Jesus.
 - b. That's not really what this text means--The text means that Jesus would be God's spokesman like Moses had been.
 - 2. This Prophet would be like Moses in that he would serve as God's spokesman.
- C. Moses became God's spokesman for the Israelites at Mt. Horeb, v. 16.
 - 1. Ex. 20:18-21 tells of the day God spoke to the Israelites.
 - a. The people of Israel witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and

- the mountain smoking, and the people were frightened.
- b. The people told Moses, "You speak to us, but let not God speak to us lest we die."
- 2. Because the people were terrified of God, Moses became God's spokesman.
- 3. The Lord told Moses what the people had spoken was good—Moses would serve as God's spokesman.
- D. This prophet would be an Israelite, v. 15b.
 - 1. God promised the people that from their own midst, from their brethren, God would raise up this prophet.
 - 2. Again, in v. 18, God promised to raise up a prophet from their brethren.
 - 3. Instead of hearing from some pagan, the people would be able to hear God's word from one of their own.
 - a. People often listen to one of their own.
 - b. That's why in mission work it's important to involve as many native preachers as possible--they know the language, they know the customs, they know the people.
- E. The people were to listen to this prophet, v. 15c.
 - 1. V. 15 closes by saying, "Him you shall hear."
 - 2. God intended for this prophet to be heard.
 - a. It would do no good for God to send this prophet and have no one listen to him.
 - b. On the Mt. of Transfiguration, God declared, "This is My beloved son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Mt. 17:5).
- F. Jesus is a prophet like Moses.
 - 1. Just as Moses served as God's mouthpiece, Jesus now serves as God's mouthpiece.
 - 2. God "has in these last days spoken to us by His Son" (Heb. 1:2).

THE PROPHET WOULD SPEAK THE WORDS OF GOD, v. 18

- A. God here repeats the promise to raise up a prophet like Moses from Israel.
- B. God would put his words in the prophet's mouth.
 - 1. God put his words in the mouths of his prophets.
 - a. God gave Ezekiel a scroll which contained the message which Ezekiel was to preach; Ezekiel ate that scroll so that it would become part of him (Ez. 3:1-3).
 - b. God put his words in Jeremiah's mouth (Jer. 1:9).
 - 2. Remember that a prophet is basically one who speaks on God's behalf.
 - 3. Jesus would be speaking the very words of God.
 - a. "The word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me" (Jn. 14:24).
 - b. Jesus gave his disciples the words God had given him (Jn. 17:8).
 - c. "As My Father taught Me, I speak these things (Jn. 8:28)
- C. This prophet was to speak all that God had commanded him.
 - 1. Jesus was to speak all that God commanded him.
 - a. Jesus could not pick and choose what he taught--He was to teach what Paul called "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).
 - b. At times Jesus' message was unpopular.
 - 1) When Jesus claimed to be equal with God, those who heard him picked up stones to throw at him (Jn. 8:59).
 - 2) The world hated Jesus because he testified that its works were evil (Jn. 7:7).
 - c. Today, preachers are to preach the truth even if it makes them unpopular.
 - 2. God commanded what Jesus taught--Jesus had no choice in the matter; God decreed what he spoke.
- D. While Jesus was on this earth, he spoke the words of God--We can go to Jesus' words and learn what God wants us to do.

GOD WOULD REQUIRE INDIVIDUALS TO HEAR THE PROPHET'S MESSAGE, v. 19

- A. God would require it from those who did not hear God's words which were spoken through the mouth of his prophet.
 - 1. Another translation says that anyone who does not hear the word of the prophet God would hold him accountable.
 - 2. That is the idea--God will hold accountable the one who does not pay attention to his prophet.
- B. Indeed, those who refuse to hear the words of Jesus will be held accountable.
 - 1. The words that Jesus has spoken will judge man on the last day (Jn. 12:48).
 - 2. "The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (Jn. 6:63).
 - a. Through the words of Jesus, we can have life.
 - b. Yet, if we refuse to hear the words of Jesus, we cannot have life.
- C. At the judgment, we will answer for our closely we have followed Jesus' words.

CONCLUSION

- A. Since Jesus spoke for God, we need to hear what Jesus says concerning salvation.
 - 1. We must believe in Jesus--"If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins" (Jn. 8:24).
 - 2. We must repent of our sins—"Unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3).
 - 3. We must confess our faith in Christ—"Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 10:32).
 - 4. We must be baptized—"He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mk. 16:16).
- B. Have you done what God requires?