

4th S Epi (1/28/18) Bethlehem, St. Paul's (rev 1/28/24) SJ, SM

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (NIV84) The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.¹⁶ For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."¹⁷ The LORD said to me: "What they say is good.¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.¹⁹ If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account.²⁰ But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death."

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Dear fellow redeemed:

People like Mohammed, Joseph Smith, Benny Hinn and Oral Roberts have claimed that God has talked to them. Yet when we study these supposed from God, something is wrong. They contradict Scripture. They prophecy things that failed to come true. These "prophets" are not prophets but false prophets in sheep's clothing, leading people astray.

Today we learn about some true prophets. Moses promised that some day God was going to send another prophet, **a prophet like me**. Let's listen to Moses today as he informs us:

Jesus Is The Prophet Like Moses

1. Like Moses, he speaks God's words
2. Like Moses, he shares our humanity

1. Like Moses, he speaks God's words

Who is the greatest prophet in the Old Testament? It's a short list to consider. Moses would easily make the list, and some might suggest Elijah Samuel or Isaiah. However, out of all the OT prophets, Moses had a unique relationship with God. More than once, he climbed up Mt. Sinai and talked to God. I really don't know how to describe Moses' relationship with God, but Deuteronomy tells us:

No prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do (Dt 34:10-11)

Yet Moses himself said that God would send another prophet, a prophet who would be like Moses. Yet not even Moses had a relationship with God like Jesus did. Jesus came from heaven, was sent by our Heavenly Father to do his will. Even more than that, no one could possibly have a better relationship with God, since Jesus himself *was* God. So it was not the blood of just a man that was shed for us on Good Friday, but it was the blood of God's Son, sinless and valuable beyond all measure.

There were a few times in Moses' life and ministry that the people didn't like what he had to say. Korah and his followers rebelled against Moses and more importantly, by rejecting Moses, they were really rejecting God.

No one can tell us about God like Jesus can. Jesus taught us that **no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.** (Mt 11:27)

The reason Jesus can do this because he came from heaven; he is the Word made flesh, who left his throne in heaven and **made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** (John 1:14)

Our society sometimes has problems with God's words, on a whole variety of subjects: sin and hell, man and woman, marriage and divorce, creation and evolution. Even more problematic, the world wants to make all gods the same and insist that there are many, many ways to heaven. The words of Jesus and Moses are made equal to the words of Joseph Smith and Mary Baker Smith and dozens of others.

How easy it is for us to listen to this and hear the world suggest we are narrow-minded or that maybe Jesus isn't the only way to heaven. Yet there is no one else who can save us.

And how blessed we are that even when we do the unforgivable, and given the glory that belongs to Jesus to ourselves or someone else, that Jesus forgives even those sins because of his great love for us.

2. Like Moses, he shares our humanity

Moses told us something about Jesus. He would be **a prophet like me from among your own brothers.**

God did not send an angel to deliver the Israelites from Egypt, though he certainly could have. Jesus, like Moses, was Jewish. But more than that, Jesus was human. The Savior of the human race needed to share our humanity.

So God sent like us to be our Savior, born of a woman, born with our flesh and blood, someone who shared our humanity. God's only Son slept and ate, drank and walked, wore clothes – all for us. He lived for us and he suffered and died for us. All these are things that God could not do, but the human Jesus did for us. He was like us in every single way, **except he was without sin**, according to Hebrews (4:18).

Yet God's prophet knew our sin. He knew Peter's denials, even though he wasn't present for all of them. He knew about Thomas' words of doubt, even. He knew the adultery of the Samaritan woman at the well. All our sins are revealed – our doubts, our failures, our lust and greed and covetous desires.

Jesus functioned as God's prophet by traveling all over the land wherever he went, he shared God's Word with people, announcing God's forgiveness. At the tender age of 12 years old, his knowledge and understanding of God's Word amazed. Jesus was a prophet like the world had never seen before or since. He was the greatest teacher of God's Word ever as God himself explained his will for us.

There are false prophets in the world. Yet we have the words of not only Moses, but we have the words of the one Moses told us that God would send, our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.