

The Book of Deuteronomy

Lessons from the Second Address of Moses

Part III

Text: Deuteronomy 12 – 18

I. 13:1-5 – Danger of False Prophets

- A. This passage describes a person who calls himself a prophet, yet seeks to lead God's people into idolatry.
 - 1. Though he might be called a prophet or a dreamer, he is a pretender.
 - 2. His message proves him to be false because it contradicts the Word of God.
- B. Even if he gives a sign or wonder and it comes to pass, he is not to be believed or followed.
 - 1. These signs or wonders were not genuine miracles.
 - 2. Instead, it was a use of deceit to convince others that God had spoken to him (cf. Simon the sorcerer [Acts 8]).
- C. They should view this as a test from God.
- D. The false prophet was to be put to death for his sin – and to remove his evil influence from among the nation (cf. 1 Cor. 5:13; Gal. 2:1-5; etc.).
- E. *{The rest of this chapter deals with others who would seek to lead Israel into idolatry – a close loved one or an entire city. All were to be put to death.}*
- F. Deuteronomy 18:20-22 also addresses the danger of false prophets.
 - 1. One who claimed dishonestly to speak in God's name was to be put to death.
 - 2. One who claimed to speak in the name of another god was to be put to death.
 - 3. There was a two-fold test to judge a prophet's genuineness:
 - a. His message must be in harmony with God's revealed will.
 - b. What he predicted must come to pass exactly.

II. 18:15-22 – Prophecy of God's Prophet

- A. In contrast with the false prophets were the true prophets of God.
- B. In fact, this passage is a prophecy of One who came to be known as "The Prophet."
- C. This passage is a prophecy about Jesus, the coming Messiah.
- D. Moses declared that they were wise when that asked for someone to speak to them in the place of God, after hearing His voice from Mount Sinai.
- E. Moses had fulfilled that role – revealing to them the Law of God.
- F. But, God promised to raise up another prophet – like unto Moses.
 - 1. He would be one of them – from their midst – a man and a Jew.
 - 2. He would fill the same role that Moses had filled.
 - 3. God would put His words in the prophet's mouth.
 - 4. The prophet would speak all that God commanded.
 - 5. They were to listen to and obey the words of this prophet.
- G. One who did not obey the words of this prophet would have to answer to God.
- H. This prophecy is fulfilled in Christ (John 1:19-29, 45; Acts 3:22-23; 7:37; cf. Luke 24:19; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:1-2; 2:1-4; Matt. 17:5).
- I. Jesus is the Prophet to whom all must hearken today!



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- III. 17:14-20 – Instructions Concerning a King
 - A. 1 Samuel 8
 - B. 1 Samuel 12:19
 - C. Hosea 13:11
 - D. Luke 1:32-33

- IV. 18:1-14 – Instructions Concerning Priests