

Kingdom Focus

That Prophet

That which is written in the book of Deuteronomy was communicated to the Israelites by Moses during their last month in the wilderness. He reminded them of what took place 40 years earlier at Mount Horeb during their first year in the wilderness. God made a covenant with them at that time. The commandments of the covenant were first heard by all as God spoke to them in a very powerful, miraculous way. They were overwhelmed with God's voice and insisted that Moses serve as a mediator. So, after the ten commandments were heard, God spoke the remainder of the covenant to Moses who in turn communicated it to Israel. Along with reviewing the information given at Mount Horeb — called the Law or the Covenant — Moses also provided additional information during that last month.

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

And the LORD said unto me, They have well *spoken that* which they have spoken.

I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put

my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require *it* of him.

This prophecy about "that prophet" is one of the clearest promises about Christ in all the Law of Moses and is worthy of our mindful consideration. Every prophet that followed Moses was like him in some respect though inferior in some regards because of what is stated in Deuteronomy 34:10-12: "And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses...." The obvious question is, "In what way is 'that prophet' like unto Moses yet different from all the other prophets that followed him?" The answer is found in the context of the statement.

Moses was the mediator of the covenant which is why the information regarding this covenant is often called the Mosaic Covenant or the Law of Moses. However a more accurate description would be that it was God's covenant with Israel which contains the Law of God for them. No other prophet received the covenant commandments and in turn taught them to Israel. Many if not all of the prophets that followed Moses reminded Israel of the covenant along with its commandments.

From the time that Moses prophesied regarding "that

prophet," the people of Israel looked for this prophet that was going to be like Moses. John the Baptist had such a profound influence upon the people in his time that the priests and Levites started wondering who he was. They asked John, "Who art thou?" John denied being the Christ. They asked, "Are you Elias [Elijah]?" because Malachi had prophesied about his coming. John said, "I am not." Then they asked him, "Are you that prophet?" referring to the one which Moses said would come. Again John answered, "No" (John 1:19-26).

After Jesus fed the five thousand from the five barley loaves and two small fishes, those who saw the miracle stated, "This is of a truth **that prophet** that should come into the world" (John 6:14). After Jesus ascended, the apostles began to witness regarding him. Peter makes the clear connection between the one Moses spoke of and Jesus the Christ.

Acts 3:19-23

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

And it shall come to pass, *that* every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Later, in Acts 7, Stephen also clearly states that Jesus is "that prophet" (Acts 7:35 ff). Just like Moses, Jesus is the mediator of a covenant — the new covenant. Jesus received all the information regarding the new covenant and communicated it to the new covenant believers. The new, just like the old, is between God and those who believe. Jesus fulfilled the old and began the new.

Jesus is that prophet

God promised, through Moses, to raise up "that prophet" and that He would "...put My words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." It is said of Jesus, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...." Jesus always spoke God's words; therefore the Word, God's Word, was made flesh. Consider these things Jesus "that prophet" said about his ministry.

John 3:34
For he whom God hath sent
speaketh the words of God....

John 7:16
Jesus answered them, and
said, My doctrine is not
mine, but his that sent me.

John 8:28 and 29
Then said Jesus unto them,
When ye have lifted up the
Son of man, then shall ye
know that I am *he*, and *that* I
do nothing of myself; but as
my Father hath taught me, I
speak these things.
And he that sent me is with
me: the Father hath not left
me alone; for I do always
those things that please him.

Verse 38
I speak that which I have
seen with my Father....

John 12: 49 and 50
For I have not spoken of
myself; but the Father which
sent me, he gave me a
commandment, what I
should say, and what I
should speak.

And I know that his
commandment is life
everlasting: whatsoever I
speak therefore, even as the
Father said unto me, so I
speak.

John 14:10, 24
Believest thou not that I am
in the Father, and the Father
in me? the words that I speak
unto you I speak not of
myself: but the Father that
dwelleth in me, he doeth the
works.

He that loveth me not
keepeth not my sayings: and
the word which ye hear is
not mine, but the Father's
which sent me.

The information of the old
covenant is primarily contained
within the books that Moses
wrote (Genesis through
Deuteronomy). All the other
books included in the Old
Testament which are written by
the prophets neither contradict
nor add to the Law of Moses.
The prophets encouraged Israel to
obey the commandments given to
Moses. They also prophesied
about God's coming King and
Kingdom which relate to the
covenant cut with David and

allude to the new covenant
which would come with Jesus.

The new covenant
commandments were spoken by
Jesus and recorded in the four
Gospels. Additional information
regarding the covenant was given
to Jesus' apostles who spoke and
wrote for him after his ascension.

Galatians 1:11 and 12
But I certify you, brethren,
that the gospel which was
preached of me is not after
man.
For I neither received it of
man, neither was I taught *it*,
but by the revelation of Jesus
Christ.

Jesus is the mediator of the new
covenant. God gave the
information to him, and he in
turn gave revelation to the
apostles who wrote the New
Testament. It is noteworthy that
the writers of the Old Testament
were prophets and the writers of
the New Testament were the
apostles of Christ. The prophets
received information from God
and then wrote. The apostles
received their information from
"that prophet." Jesus was the last
great prophet! Other prophets
have followed but none have
added to the new covenant
because Jesus is "that prophet"
like unto Moses.

The words of the prophet Jesus
are the words of God which give
life unto men.

John 5:24
Verily, verily, I say unto you,
He that heareth my word,

and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

The words of Jesus, not Moses, are those that give eternal life. Moses said in Deuteronomy 18:19 that whosoever would not hearken to God's words that the prophet Jesus would speak would be judged. Jesus explained that the very words he spoke, if rejected, would judge them.

John 12:46-48

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.