

Text— Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Adult Bible-believing Christians are aware of the fact that the first five books of the Holy Bible were written by Moses. Furthermore, God gave Moses and those others who penned the books of the Bible the very words they wrote, for 2 Peter 1:21 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17 inform us, “the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

Accordingly, people would do well to heed God’s Word as found in the pure, preserved Holy Scriptures, rather than reading false so-called “holy books” – such as perverted Bible translations, or the Koran, or the Zend Avesta, or the Talmud – or heeding everything man’s science falsely-so-called spews forth, or consulting seance artists, psycho-quacks and the like. The Lord warned the Israelites of old against such practices, for in Deuteronomy 18:9-14, just prior to our Scripture selection, we read, “When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.” Hence, it is abominably sinful when folks do not heed God’s true Holy Word.

Our sermon text for today is taken from the 5th book of Moses, the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy. Moses was a man gifted by God with faith in the promised Messiah and was chosen by God to be a prophet, for Hebrews 11:24-29 reports, “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.” Thus, Moses was truly a man of faith, chosen by the Lord to serve as His prophet.

However, as great a prophet as Moses was, he wrote of a man who would far exceed him, for our sermon text tells us of:

“THE LORD’S GREATEST PROPHET FORETOLD OF OLD”

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) Who He is and what outstanding qualities He possesses
- 2) Why His preaching is necessary and must be heard

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Verses 15-18, ----- (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)

Moses was speaking to the children of Israel, God’s chosen people of old, when he prophesied the words we just read. Think about what had happened in Horeb.

Horeb is the region where Mt. Sinai is located, the

mountain upon which the Lord delivered the Ten Commandments written with His finger upon two tables of stone for Moses to share with the people. But, before the Commandments were written in stone, God Himself had spoken to the people His Ten Commandments, for Exodus 19:16-25 & 20:1-3 informs us, "it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish. And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them. And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it. And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them. So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them. And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me." God then proceeded to voice the remaining nine Commandments.

Subsequently, Exodus 20:18-19 reports, "all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they

removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die." Oh, the people were terrified when God addressed them directly with His Holy Law.

Yes, upon being very terrified, the people said to Moses, as Deuteronomy 5:24-29 relates, "Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth. Now therefore why should we die? for this great fire will consume us: if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die. For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? Go thou near, and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it. And the LORD heard the voice of your words, when ye spake unto me; and the LORD said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken. O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!" Thus, the Lord spoke to His people from that time forward through Moses, His prophet.

Now, in our sermon text Moses told the children of Israel: *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.* So, Moses prophesied of another Prophet who would come from the children of Israel

according to the flesh— a Prophet who would be like Moses in that He would be great and would speak God’s Word to the people, exactly as God would command. The great Prophet who would be like Moses was to be listened to, heard and obeyed, in all that He would say.

Since the new Prophet would be like Moses, it is evident He too would be specially called and specially prepared for the work He was to do. However, note well that the Prophet who followed Moses would be perfect, for ALL that He would speak would be GOD’S WORD AS COMMANDED BY GOD. Therefore, the Lord’s Prophet foretold of old would be greater than Moses: the Prophet would not only be Man of the children of Israel according to the flesh; the Prophet would be TRUE MAN always obeying God’s commands perfectly and would also be TRUE GOD since He would speak only God’s Word put in His mouth and would always speak ALL God would command Him.

My friends, it is therefore plainly evident that the Lord’s greatest Prophet foretold of old is none other than Jesus Christ, for John 3:34-35 informs us in regards to Jesus, “he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.” Additionally, concerning Christ, Colossians 2:9 reports, “in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

Oh, Jesus Christ is indeed the Lord’s greatest Prophet foretold of old, for Hebrews 1:1-4 states, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” Jesus is true Man

and true God, but one Christ.

Consider what Jesus Christ spoke during His visible sojourn on earth and what He still speaks in the Holy Scriptures. Jesus not only spoke and speaks God’s Law; Jesus also spoke and speaks His Gospel, the Good News that He supplies salvation that all naturally conceived human beings desperately need.

The Lord’s greatest Prophet foretold of old, Jesus Christ, has the outstanding qualities of being both true man and true God, as mentioned earlier and noted from Holy Scripture. Accordingly, we can rely on everything Jesus Christ says! For instance, when Jesus says, as we read in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me,” we had better take it to heart that Jesus is indeed the ONLY WAY to God and heaven, for Acts 4:12 declares in no uncertain terms, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Jesus is not only the Lord’s greatest Prophet foretold of old; Jesus is also the Messiah, the Christ, foretold of old— the promised Savior whom we all need. Oh, we certainly ALL need Jesus Christ, for Holy Writ states, “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; [and] the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 3:23; 6:23) Let us therefore thank the Lord for His greatest Prophet, Jesus Christ, and all of His saving work.

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As we continue to ponder our sermon text to its conclusion, let us see why the Lord’s greatest Prophet’s preaching is necessary and must be heard.

Let’s look again at verses 15-18 of our sermon text, ----. (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)

First, let each and every naturally conceived human being admit he or she is a sinner who by

nature flees from God, not toward God, for Psalm 14:2-3 declares, "The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one." As a result, God in His holiness says in Ezekiel 18:4, "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Note well, the soul that sins shall die: not only the sinner's body shall die, but the sinner's soul shall die. Thus, never-ending death in hell awaits all sinners unless they are rescued from that ruin, for hell is the place, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched," as Mark 9:44 relates.

Accordingly, when God's Law thunders upon us sinners, we are convicted of sin and if we are honest we would all have to cry as did the Israelites, "*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.*" Indeed, when God's Law thunders we see the great fire of hell awaiting us. Hence, WE NEED the preaching of the Lord's greatest Prophet foretold of old, Jesus Christ, because He comes to us with His blessed Gospel, the good-news that He has kept God's Law perfectly for us and has paid for our lack of keeping God's Law, for Jesus has paid for all the sins of all people with His own holy and precious blood that He shed while nailed to the tree of the cross.

The facts are clear in Romans 3:19-26, which reads, "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the

redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." So, we ALL NEED JESUS and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS to stand before the high and holy God.

Yes, we can never approach God in His holiness without the mediation of the Lord's greatest Prophet foretold of old, for 1 Timothy 2:5-6 informs us, "there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." Jesus Christ is indeed the Lord's greatest Prophet foretold of old.

Verse 19, ----- (Deuteronomy 18:19)

My friends, JESUS CHRIST, the Lord's greatest Prophet foretold of old, MUST be heard with one's ears and heart if one would be saved, for the Lord in the closing verse of our sermon text says: *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.* Note well that those who will not hear the Lord's WORDS – plural – spoken by Jesus Christ, will answer to God the Judge who will consign all unbelievers to hell. It's as we learn from Acts 3:19-23, which says, "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." Indeed, for Mark 16:16 plainly states, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;

but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

There is no ifs, ands, or buts about it, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3:16-18, 36)

Accordingly, let us always listen to the Lord’s greatest Prophet foretold of old, Jesus Christ.

Let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins; let us keep our full trust and confidence in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord; and, let us go forward appreciating the fact that Jesus Christ is indeed the Lord’s greatest Prophet foretold of old, for He is in fact the WORD OF GOD INCARNATE. Yes, let us from our hearts say with Simon Peter of old, as recorded in John 6:68-69, “Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.” Amen.

m.e.l.