

Deuteronomy 18 – Role of a Prophet

Day 1: The Need for a Mediator

Deuteronomy 18:15–16 (NKJV): "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.'"

What do we mean when we talk about the need for a mediator? To understand this, you have to visualize what is going on at Mount Sinai. The people of Israel were terrified. They heard the thundering voice of a holy God, they saw the great fire, and they realized they could not stand in the direct presence of the Almighty and live. They begged Moses to stand between them and God. They needed someone to hear from heaven and bring the message down to them.

God answered their cry. He did not rebuke them for their fear; He acknowledged that they spoke the truth. We cannot approach a holy God on our own merit. In God's order, in God's way, He established the institution of prophecy. He promised to provide a mediator who would bridge the gap between the blazing holiness of God and the desperate need of the people. This is the foundation of how God speaks to His church.

Questions for Children

Why were the Israelites so afraid at Mount Sinai? Who did they ask to speak to God for them?

Family Prayer

Father, we confess that You are holy and a consuming fire. We thank You that You did not leave us to die in our sins or tremble in fear without a way to hear Your voice. Thank You for providing a mediator for Your people. Prepare our hearts this week to understand the great gift of Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2: Raised Up From Among the Brethren

Deuteronomy 18:17–18a (NKJV): "And the Lord said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren...'"

The world around Israel had diviners and soothsayers. The heathen nations looked to the stars, the dead, and the dark spiritual forces to find answers. But God forbade His people from copying the culture. Instead, He made a specific promise: He would raise up a prophet "from among their brethren." This prophet would not be an angel from heaven or a stranger from a foreign land. He would be one of them.

Moses acting as the mediator of the word is a powerful image. A type is something that was divinely intended to be a picture of Christ, and Moses is exactly that. God was preparing the people to understand that their ultimate rescue would come through a man, a true brother, who would perfectly represent them before God and perfectly represent God before them. True prophecy is a gift of grace given exclusively to the covenant people of God.

Questions for Children

Where did God say the new prophet would come from? Why is it important that the prophet was one of their own brothers?

Family Prayer

Lord, we praise You for Your wisdom. You did not leave us to seek answers from the dark practices of the world, but You gave a clear and sure word through Your chosen prophets. Thank You for raising up faithful men who were part of Your covenant people to deliver Your truth. Keep us from turning to the world for the answers that only You can provide. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 3: The Very Words of God

Deuteronomy 18:18b (NKJV): "...and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him."

This is a critical text because it establishes the doctrine of verbal inspiration. What do we mean by this? Well, people often think God just gave the biblical writers some broad, inspiring ideas and left it up to them to figure out how to write it down. But that is not what the text says. God said He would literally put His words into their mouths.

God did not just inspire the concepts; He inspired the vocabulary. Every single word of the Bible is breathed out by God. The prophets were not guessing at God's will. They were speaking the exact words the Lord commanded them to speak. When you open your Bible, you are not reading the religious musings of ancient men. You are reading the very words of the living God, perfectly preserved for us to hear and obey.

Questions for Children

Did God just give the prophets ideas, or did He give them His exact words? How does this change the way we should listen to the Bible?

Family Prayer

Father, what a glorious truth it is that You have spoken to us. We thank You for the doctrine of verbal inspiration. We believe that every word in the Scriptures is Yours. Forgive us for the

times we treat the Bible like an ordinary book. Give us a deep reverence for Your Holy Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4: Defending the Book

Deuteronomy 18:19–20 (NKJV): "And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

Satan is constantly seeking to destroy the truth of God's Word. If he can convince us that the Bible is just a human book with inspiring ideas, the floodgates of error will open wide. He wants you to doubt the authority of the text. But look at how seriously God takes His own words. To ignore the true prophet is to invite the judgment of God. To presume to speak falsely in God's name is a deadly sin.

We must hold firmly to the truth that the Scriptures carry the full weight of divine authority. The culture will mock it. False teachers will try to twist it. But we are called to defend it. We must not apologize for what God has clearly spoken. Our great responsibility now is to read it, defend it, and bow our lives before it, knowing that God will hold us accountable for how we receive His truth.

Questions for Children

What did God say would happen if someone refused to listen to His words? Why does Satan want us to doubt the Bible?

Family Prayer

Lord, we ask for courage. The world and the enemy hate Your truth and seek to undermine it at every turn. Help us to stand firm on the authority of Scripture. Guard our family from false teaching, and give us a stubborn loyalty to the truth, no matter what the culture says. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5: The Great Prophet, Jesus Christ

Acts 3:22–23 (NKJV): "For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'"

Ultimately, these Old Testament prophets were preparing the way for someone far greater. Moses was a great man, but he was only a shadow. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment. Jesus did

not merely speak the words of God; He is the Word of God made flesh. He is the true and final Prophet.

Today, we do not need new prophets bringing new revelations, because we have the complete and sufficient word of God written down for us, centering entirely on the work of Jesus Christ. He came down to dwell among His brethren. He spoke the truth perfectly. He went to the cross, died for our sins, and rose from the dead. This is the center of the gospel message. If we want to hear the voice of God today, we must look to Christ and the Scriptures that testify of Him.

Questions for Children

Who is the ultimate Prophet that Moses was pointing toward? Do we need new prophets today, or did Jesus give us everything we need in the Bible?

Family Prayer

Father, we thank You for giving to us this Great Prophet, Your own Son, Jesus Christ. We thank You that He perfectly revealed Your will and accomplished our salvation. Help us to fix our eyes on Jesus. Grant us the grace to hear Him, love Him, and walk in obedience to Him every single day. In Jesus' name, Amen.