

WE MUST HEAR THE WORDS OF “THAT PROPHET”!

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- The Jewish Church leaders sent messengers to John the Baptist to enquire of him, if he was “that prophet”. John denied that he was fulfilling the role of “that prophet”.
John 1:19-21: - “And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. **Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.**”
- The following passage found in the writings of Moses, led the Jews to make the above enquiry of John the Baptist. They were expecting “that prophet” to arise among them.
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.**”

When we examine VS. 16-18, we can see that the Lord first made this promise to Moses concerning “that prophet” arising among the children of Israel at Horeb or Mount Sinai, after the Lord had publicly proclaimed the Ten Commandments to the congregation of Israel. This was at the time when the people of Israel could no longer listen to God’s words being spoken directly to them, because of the sheer terror of the glory and majesty of the Lord that accompanied his speaking his Law to his people. God readily agreed with the request of the children of Israel at this time, and promised to continue to instruct Israel through Moses, who would then repeat the words of the Lord to the congregation.

Exodus 20:18 & 19: - “And 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.**”

Deuteronomy 5:22-31 - “**These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me. And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, [even] all the heads of your tribes, and your elders; And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath showed 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! **Go say to them, Get you into your tents again. But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which thou shalt teach them, that they may do [them] in the land which I give them to possess it.**”

A BRIEF EXAMINATION OF THE PROPHECY CONCERNING “THAT PROPHET”: -

- When we examine Deuteronomy 18:15-19 more carefully, we can see a number of very specific requirements concerning “that prophet” which are listed.
 1. “That prophet” was to be raised up from among the people of Israel.
 2. He was to be like unto Moses as a teacher to the people.

3. The Lord would put his words into his mouth, and he would speak all that the Lord had commanded him.
 4. He would speak in the name of the Lord.
 5. Those who do not hear “that prophet’s” words, the Lord would require it of them. When anyone rejects the words of “that prophet” they are rejecting the Lord.
- If we examine these specific requirements concerning “that prophet”, we shall see that they were all fulfilled in the public teaching ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 1. Christ was indeed raised up from among the people of Israel, being born in the town of Bethlehem, and descending from the seed or offspring of Abraham and David.
Matthew 2:1: - **“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea** in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.”

Romans 1:3: - “Concerning his Son **Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh.**”

Romans 9:3-5: - “For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: **Who are Israelites; to whom [pertaineth] the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service [of God], and the promises; Whose [are] the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ [came],** who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”

2 Timothy 2:8: - “Remember that **Jesus Christ of the seed of David** was raised from the dead according to my gospel.”

Hebrews 2:16: - “For verily he took not on [him the nature of] angels; but **he took on [him] the seed of Abraham.**”

2. This second point concerning “that prophet” is very important concerning the teaching ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. Moses and “that prophet” **were to be like each other** in their roles as teachers or prophets to the people. Moses was **NOT** an independent teacher or legislator for the people of Israel. In other words, he did **NOT** act as an independent Lawmaker for the congregation of Israel. Far from it! Moses was merely the mouthpiece that the Lord had chosen to receive God’s Commandments and requirements for Israel, who was then to teach them to the people. It is in this aspect of Moses’ ministry that “that prophet” was to be **like** Moses.

We have one very clear example of this truth in the books of Moses, concerning the man who violated the Sabbath Commandment by picking up sticks upon that holy day. Moses and the people of Israel did not know what was to be his punishment, so they put him under guard, until the Lord communicated his decision concerning this man’s sin to Moses, which resulted in this man being stoned to death.

Numbers 15:32-36: - “And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. **And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.** And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; **as the LORD commanded Moses.**”

Understanding this principle concerning the prophetic ministry of Moses, leads us to consider the next point concerning “that prophet” and our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. The Lord would put his words into the mouth of “that prophet”, who was to speak these words to the people; just as the Lord did to Moses in his role as being the teacher of the people of Israel. When we turn to the New Testament Scriptures, we find Jesus repeatedly stating that he was only speaking and teaching what his Father had commanded him to speak and to teach. In other words, Jesus as a public teacher did **NOT** act or teach independently of his Father. He could **NOT** do this and yet fulfil the prophecy of Deuteronomy 18:15-19.

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

John 8:26: - “I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; **and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.**”

John 8:28: - “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.**”

John 12:49 & 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: - "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."**

John 14:24: - "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."**

John 17:8: - **"For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received [them], and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me."**

4. Jesus came and spoke in his Father's name to the people, just as was predicted concerning the ministry of "that prophet".
John 5:43: - **"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."**

John 17:6: - **"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word."**

NB: - When we compare this verse with what we have already read in John 17:8, we can see that the disciples of Christ had kept the Father's words, because that was what Jesus had given to them.

● The testimony of the Scriptures on this point is clear and abundant. Christ during his public ministry acted as his Heavenly Father's **MOUTHPIECE** to mankind. Therefore, he did **NOT** act as an independent Lawgiver for humanity. He did **NOT** come to give mankind a new Moral Code of Laws or Commandments to live by. He was fulfilling the role of being "that prophet" during his earthly public teaching ministry.

Many Christians claim that God the Father gave the Ten Commandment Law in the Old Testament, while Jesus has given us a new set of Moral Commandments in the New Testament. But such a teaching sets at variance the Father and Christ, and ignores the abundant Scripture testimony produced in this Study Document concerning the mission of "that prophet". We must never forget that there is only **ONE** Lawgiver in the Bible.

James 4:12: - **"There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?"**

5. The Father has commanded us to hear the words of his Son Jesus Christ.
Matthew 17:5: - "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."**

Anyone who does not hear and accept the words and teachings of "that prophet", who we can clearly see in reality is Christ, will be destroyed.

Acts 3:23: - "And it shall come to pass, **[that] every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."**

When we believe and accept the teachings of Christ, we are really believing in and accepting the Father who sent Christ. This is logical, as Christ was speaking and teaching the words that his Father had commanded him to speak.

Matthew 10:40: - "He that receiveth you receiveth me, **and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me."**

Mark 9:37: - "Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: **and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me."**

Luke 9:48: - "And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: **and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me:** for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great."

John 12:44: - "Jesus cried and said, **He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me."**

● The evidence from the Scriptures is overwhelming. Our Lord Jesus Christ during his public teaching ministry fulfilled the prophecy of Deuteronomy 18:15-19 concerning “that prophet”. This leads us to a very simple but powerful conclusion concerning the words that Christ spoke in the Sermon on the Mount, relating to the Law of Ten Commandments. We must remember that what Jesus spoke and taught, were **NOT** his own words and teachings that he was originating. He was merely repeating what his Heavenly Father had commissioned him to speak and to teach. So the following words of Christ in reality are reflecting exactly God the Father’s will concerning the binding claims of his Law.

Matthew 5:17-19: - “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, **Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.** Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach [them], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Luke 16:17: - “**And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.**”

Truly Jesus and his Heavenly Father are **ONE**. They are totally united in their words and teachings.

John 10:30: - “I and [my] Father are one.”

Therefore we should hear what Christ has proclaimed concerning the unchanging nature of even the smallest part of the Law of God; to reject this plain teaching of God the Father as revealed through Christ, will lead us to be destroyed.

Matthew 17:5: - “**This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.**”

Acts 3:23: - “**And it shall come to pass, [that] every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.**”