

## “God’s Treasured Possession!”

The Book of Deuteronomy-

Old Israel and New Israel = The Church

**Date: 3-5-17 Study: #18 Text: Chapter 18**

**Lesson 18 for us: “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers- it is to him you shall listen”**

**(a Messianic prophecy of the coming of God’s Son Jesus)**



### A. THE TEXT:

(1) "The Levitical priests, all the tribe of Levi, shall have no portion or inheritance with Israel. They shall eat **the Lord's** food offerings as their inheritance. (2) They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; **the Lord is their inheritance**, as he promised them. (3) And this shall be the priests' due from the people, from those offering a sacrifice, whether an ox or a sheep: they shall give to the priest the shoulder and the two cheeks and the stomach. (4) The firstfruits of your grain, of your wine and of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep, you shall give him.

(5) For **the Lord your God** has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the **name of the Lord**, him and his sons for all time. (6) "And if a Levite comes from any of your towns out of all Israel, where he lives--and he may come when he desires--to the place that **the Lord will choose**, (7) and ministers in the name of **the Lord his God**, like all his fellow Levites who stand to minister there before **the Lord**, (8) then he may have equal portions to eat, besides what he receives from the sale of his patrimony.

(9) "When you come into the land that **the Lord your God** is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. (10) There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer (11) or a charmer or a medium or a wizard or a necromancer, (12) for whoever does these things **is an abomination to the Lord**. And because of these abominations the **Lord your God** is driving them out before you. (13) You shall be blameless before **the Lord your God**, (14) for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, **the Lord your God** has not allowed you to do this.

(15) "**The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers--it is to him you shall listen--** (16) just as you desired **of the Lord your God** at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of **the Lord my God** or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' (17) And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. (18) **I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.**

(19) And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak **in my name**, I myself will require it of him. (20) But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in **my name** that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.' (21) And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know **the word that the Lord** has not spoken?'-- (22) when a prophet speaks in **the name of the Lord**, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that **the Lord** has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

### B. Study Notes:

1. The Levites were set apart by God to serve in the tabernacle and they owned no private land. Israel would set apart towns and pasturelands for their families, and the tithes and sacrifices would be used to support them. **(Josh 21:41,42; Lev 7:28-36; 27:30; Num 18:20-29; Mt 10:10; 1 Cor 9:9-14; 1 Tim 5:17,18)**

2. The principle of the first-fruits **(Ex 23:19; Lev 23:10,11; Nu 15:18-20; 18:12,13)**

3. The detestable and abominable practices of the pagans are listed in **vv. 9-14.**

**(Gen 30:27; 44:5; Lev 18:21; 2 Kings 3:26,27; 1 Sam 28:8)**

Notice that all these flow from a breaking of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandments, since the pagans worshipped false gods and idols. Theology does affect every aspect of people's lives, whether it is true or false – worldviews shape everyday life! We are to be blameless before the Lord **(Mt 5:48)**

4. The prophet like Moses who will appear and speak God's Word was Jesus – the Son of God from heaven.

**(Mt 21:11; Lk 2:25-35; John 1:21,25,45; 4:22,25,26; 5:46; 6:14; 7:40; 14:24; Acts 3:22-26; 7:37)**

5. The people were afraid to see God again like at Mt. Horeb/Sinai and the giving of the 10 Commandments.

**(Ex 20:18,19; Heb 12:18-21)**

6. The false prophets who presume to speak for God were to be put to death in Moses' day.

**(Jer 28:15-17; Ac 3:23; Heb 12:25; 1 Jn 4:1-3)**

Examples of false prophets: Mohammed, William Miller, John Nelson Darby, Joseph Smith, Charles Taze Russell, Lester Sumrall, Jeane Dixon, Hal Lindsey, Pat Robertson, Benny Hinn, Oral Roberts, self-proclaimed "prophets and apostles" of the word of faith movement like Paula White, JK Jakes...

#### **LUTHER'S WORKS – VOL. 9 – Deut. Ch. 18**

"The ministry of Moses is temporary, finally to be ended by the coming of the ministry of Christ, as he says here, "Heed Him." But the ministry of Christ will be ended by nothing else, since it brings eternal righteousness and "puts an end to sin," as it is said in Dan. 9:24. Therefore the Levitical priesthood is wholly ended here and set aside, because it was established to teach Moses. But if the priesthood is ended, the Law is also ended, as it is said (Heb. 7:12): "When there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the Law as well." Thus this Prophet can be none other than Christ Himself...

Now let us look at the words: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among you, from your brethren—Him you shall heed." Here he prophesies that Christ will be true man and will come from the blood of the Jews, because salvation is from the Jews (John 4:22). No one has ever arisen from this people who taught a different word from the word of Moses and set up a new ministry except this one Christ of ours. However many prophets there were before Him, they all preserved and taught Moses. This Prophet freed not only the Jews from Moses but all nations throughout the world and gave them the new Word of the Gospel. That He was from the Jews, both the Gentiles and the Jews being witnesses, proves that it is He of whom Moses speaks here, and that this prophecy is fulfilled in Him."

#### **C. LIFE APPLICATION:**

1. What is our test for spotting and avoiding false prophets today?
2. How do we instead listen every day to the true Prophet from God – Jesus Christ?