

Deuteronomy 18:15-22

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Back in Exodus 20 when the Lord gathered the people of Israel at Mount Sinai (called Horeb here in Deuteronomy), His presence was so mighty and majestic that the people begged Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” This reminds me of the time Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on his throne in all of His glory. His immediate response was, “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” (Isaiah 6:5) God’s glory is so all-consuming, that when met with His presence, this is often the response. The people of Israel knew that day at Mt. Sinai they were too unholy to commune with a holy God. So, they begged for a prophet to speak to them instead.

Praise God that in His goodness He sent Moses to be a prophet to His people at that time, but He didn’t stop there. Later, in Deuteronomy, He promised an even better Prophet who was to come. One whom God promised would only speak all that He commanded him.

This promise comes in the midst of a section of laws concerning the way God’s people, Israel, were to live and relate with Him. In this section, God is establishing three offices: king, priest, and prophet. The king was appointed by God to be the earthly ruler of His people. The priest was appointed to be the mediator between the people and God; speaking to God and offering sacrifices on their behalf. The prophet was the opposite, speaking on behalf of God to the people. It is here in Deuteronomy that we find the promise of a coming Prophet that will be better than even the current prophet, Moses. The day is coming when God is going to raise this Prophet up from among the nation of Israel. A Prophet who will only speak exactly what God tells Him, and all He says will come to pass.

We can now see that this Prophet is Jesus. The perfect Prophet. The one who came to become the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15); to show us exactly what the Father is like both through His words and His actions. This is the Good News we celebrate this Advent season. The Good News that God promised to reveal Himself to us, and make a way for us to commune with Him, through a perfect Prophet and He did precisely that in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to proclaim to the world, “Repent and believe.” Let us do exactly that this Advent season. Hear the words of the perfect Prophet; turn from your sins, believe in Him, and put on His righteousness so you can commune with our holy God, until the day where we shall see Him face to face.