

THE LORD'S PROPHET

DEUTERONOMY 18:18-19 • TV221B

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Deuteronomy 18: 18-19

"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."

I believe that if you will listen attentively and carefully to the message that I have prepared for you today, that God will bless it to your spiritual understanding and your spiritual growth.

Our Lord has declared that *"He hath chosen by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."* When He commissioned His disciples and sent them into the world, He gave them this commission; *"go ye into all the world and preach the gospel and teach men to observe all things, whatsoever, I have commanded you."*

I have given careful study, preparation and prayer to the message that I have prepared for you today; I want you to listen to it. I pray that God will make it effectual to your understanding. I pray that God will give you eyes to see, ears to hear and a heart to understand.

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We are not just shouting, screaming, and trying to make converts. I am trying to preach the Gospel of God's grace and to teach you what the Word of God has to say about God, about sin, about salvation and eternal life.

The title of this message is: **“THE LORD'S PROPHET.”**

In **Deuteronomy 18: verses 18 and 19** in the Old Testament; listen to what Moses wrote here: Moses is speaking, he says; *“the Lord said to me; I will raise up a prophet from among thy brethren like unto thee and I 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 that prophet shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.”*

My friends, without question, there is no question about this; the words of Moses are spoken of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is God's prophet. *“The Lord said to me; I will raise up a prophet from among their brethren like unto thee. I will put my words in His mouth and the people shall hearken to Him. And whosoever will not hear what this prophet has to say, I will require it of him.”*

It is Christ that Moses is talking about. The people asked John the Baptist, when John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ came, *“are you that prophet?”* They looked for that prophet.

Moses wrote these words hundreds, and hundreds, and hundreds of years before John the Baptist came. When John the Baptist came, he was an unusual man with an unusual message. He was the forerunner of Christ.

They kept asking him, *“Are you that prophet?”* He said, *“No, I am not that prophet.”* In **John 6:14**, listen to this; *“when they saw the miracles that Jesus did, said, this is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.”*

In **John 3:34** listen to this; *“For he, whom the father hath sent, speaketh the words of God.”* That is what God said to Moses. *“I'll raise up from among the people a prophet like unto thee.”* He will be in human flesh and I will put my words in His mouth. That is what He says here, *“Whom God hath sent; he speaks the words of God.”*

Listen to **John 5:24**; Christ said, *“He that heareth my words and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life.”* Do you see what I am saying? Moses wrote hundreds of years ago in **Deuteronomy 18: verses 18 and 19**, *“the Lord said to me.”*

God spoke to Moses. All of these people today talk about what God told them. God speaks to us today through His Word. He does not speak contrary to His Word or in addition to His Word. He speaks to us through His Word.

I don't care who the preacher is, who the woman is, or who the person is, who says; “God said something to them in an audible voice;” they are not telling you the truth. God speaks through His

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Word. They may have heard a voice but it wasn't God's voice; I can assure you of that. God speaks through His Word.

If any man adds to this Word or takes away from this Word, God said that *"He would add the plagues written in this Word and take his name out of the Lamb's Book of Life."* That is just so!

God spoke to Moses. I know that He did because in **Hebrews 1** it says; *"God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake to our fathers by the prophets."* He spake to the prophets and the prophets spoke to the people.

God said to Moses; *"I'll raise up a prophet and I will put my words in his mouth and you hear him."* That prophet is Jesus Christ. He is that prophet.

Listen carefully to this; there are three main defects in men, you, me, and in everyone else. There are three main defects since the fall of Adam. You listen to this and you will learn something if you listen. It is just like the old preacher use to say; "If you are not in too big of a hurry to go hell, will you sit down and listen to the Word of God?"

There are three main defects in man since the fall:

First of all: We are under the curse of sin, which is death. **Romans 5:12** says, *"By one man sin entered the world and death by sin. So, death passed upon all men."*

You and I, every one of us, is under the curse of sin, which is death. We are partakers of spiritual death; *"you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sin."* The Bible talks about us *"being dead in sin;"* spiritually dead.

We are not only partakers of spiritual death, but also of physical death, which lives within us. It is just a matter of time that you are going to die. It is just a matter of time until I am going to die. The Scripture says, *"It is appointed unto men once to die."*

Everyone has died; no one has ever gone to heaven without dying except Enoch and Elijah. They are the only two. God took Enoch and translated Elijah. Everyone else has died and you are going to die because of sin in us we have physical death.

Not only that, we have eternal death. Some people say, "Spiritual death or eternal death;" they are the same thing. Whatever you say, death is in us and death is a result of sin. Every one of us are under the curse of the broken Law, which is death; *"the wages of sin is death."*

I'm talking about physical death, spiritual death, and eternal death. Death is in us, death is about us, and death is upon us. Hell and death are moving to meet us at our coming. That is the result of the fall. This is the first defect in man since the fall.

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God said to Adam, *"In the day ye eat, you will die."* You cannot do one thing about it. It is in you, it is upon you and it is awaiting you. I'm talking about spiritual death and physical death and if you don't know the true Christ by the grace of God, eternal death.

Second: As a result of the fall in Adam, not only do we have death in us and upon us, but we are born in rebellion. That's right; we are born in rebellion against God.

All of you know that this is so, both in our wills and in our affections. It is a whole lot easier for you to hate someone than to love someone. It is a whole lot easier for you to do wrong than to do right.

You have a lot more pleasure in sin than you do in holiness. It is a lot easier to do something in the flesh than to do something in the spirit. You know that is so; we are born with this spirit, this nature, this principle of evil and rebellion against God. It is in us, both in our wills and in our affections.

Let me show you this in the Scripture; turn to **Psalm 58:3**. *"The wicked are estranged, (perverted); from the womb (separated from God). They go astray as soon as they are born speaking lies."*

You don't have to teach children to do wrong; they are born knowing how to do wrong. You don't have to teach them to lie, to cheat, to steal, or to hate. You do not have to teach children that.

You have to teach them; you have to discipline them. You have to force them to do things right. They are born knowing how to do evil. They are born with evil within them.

"You have not the love of God in you;" that is what Christ said. By nature you do not have the love of God in you. You are not born with the love of God in you; you are born with the love of self and sin. *"You will not come to me that you might have life."*

It is all summed up in this statement and this is what they said; *"We will not have this man reign over us. We have no king but Caesar."* Those are some of the saddest words that have ever been spoken by human beings.

They stood out there while the Son of God was on trial before Pilate. Christ was holiness and truth in human flesh before them. They were crying for His blood and were crying for His death. Pilate said, *"Shall I crucify your king?"* They said, with one voice, with one accord; *"We have no king but Caesar."*

That is man's king, flesh, evil, and sin. We are born that way. You can fight it, fuss about it, grind your teeth, spit at it, or do what you want to; it is still so. Men are born in sin. They are born in rebellion against God both in will and affection.

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Third: Here is the third result of the fall; we are born with death upon us and death in us. We are born with evil in us and rebellion against God. As a result of the fall in Adam, we are born in ignorance.

That is what I am talking about; we need to be taught. We need a prophet and we need a teacher. We are born in ignorance. We are born in blindness, spiritually. Listen to what Christ said about us; *“having eyes they do not see. Having ears they do not hear. Having hearts they do not understand.”*

Oh, we understand the ways of sin well enough; we are masters in that art. We understand the ways of sin. We see and hear the ways of the flesh. We can pick up anything having to do with the flesh and enjoy it. We love it, we feast upon it; we roll it around upon our tongues and in our hearts.

There is the *“lust of the flesh, and the lust of eyes.”* By nature we do not love God; we do not love holiness. We do not love God nor long for His ways. We are ignorant. We are well versed in the ways of sin and are ignorant of the ways of God. We are masters of acts, deeds, and arts of the flesh. We are so blind, foolish, and ignorant of things of the Spirit.

Sit down and teach children how to roll dice; they will pick it up in a moment. Teach them to deal cards and they will pick it up in a moment. Teach them to do anything wrong and they will pick it up in a moment.

Try teaching them the Word of God; try getting them to memorize. They will memorize any kind of song having to do with the flesh. You can too; you can remember every evil thing you have ever seen and every dirty joke you have ever heard.

You can't even remember three verses of Scripture. You can't remember them. You try to get children to memorize the Word of God. What they know is Superman and all of the other characters like Spiderman.

They do not know who Paul is, or James and John. You know that it is so and I know it is so. You can fight it and mash your teeth against it but it is so. We are born ignorant, blind, spiritually blind, dumb, and deaf. We do not understand the things of God.

“The natural man receiveth not the things of God, they are foolishness to him. Neither can he know them that are spiritually discerned. The carnal mind, (the natural mind) is enmity against God;” it is the friend of the world.

We are friends of this world but man by nature is the enemy of God. He can make bed-fellows with anyone in this world but he doesn't want to walk with God. No sir, he doesn't! He is not subject to the law of God. His mind is not subject to the law of God and his heart is not subject to the law of God.

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By nature, he is subject to evil and to sin. These are the three things that happened to us when Adam fell. We came under the curse and judgment of God. Death came upon all men. *“By one man’s sin, sin entered this world and death by sin.”*

You are going to die. You are already dead spiritually. You were born in rebellion. Your will resists God. Our Lord said; *“Let another come in his own name and people will listen to him.” I come in my Father’s name and you will not hear me.”*

They will follow Caesar and reject Christ. They will crucify Christ and turn Barabbas loose. That is man by nature. We are born ignorant. How ignorant we are, how blind we are? How foolish is the foolish heart of man?

Well, there is good news. Do I have good news? Yes sir; I have good news. I’ve got the good news of the Gospel and it is good news; all three of these needs are met in Christ. There is a place where all my needs are met; that’s right.

Everything I need, everything God requires and everything needed to make me sufficient, adaptable, and acceptable to God for eternity, is said in **1 Corinthians 1:30**. *“He of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.”*

There is wisdom for a foolish heart, sanctification for an ungodly heart, redemption for a dead heart and then, regeneration. All of these are found in Christ.

Let me go back to those three things again. Will you go back with me? These are so and there is no use in you denying it or anyone else; it is so according to the Scriptures. It is so by experience and you know it.

First of all: Because of sin, *“we are under the curse of the law;”* this is death.

You cannot do anything about it; you are dying. You might pay someone to keep you alive for one second and he can’t do it. All the money in the world won’t keep you alive one minute past God’s decreed time. *“The number of your months is set.”* You are dying my friend; you are going the way of all flesh one of these days. Spiritual death is upon you.

In Christ, our great Priest, through the great atonement, we have life. He said, *“I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”* In **Galatians 3:13**, it says; *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law.”*

Back there in **verse 10** it says; *“Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all points of the law to do them.”* We haven’t, you haven’t, and you can’t do them.

In two verses later it says, *“But Christ hath redeemed.”* What does the word redeemed mean? If you have ever taken anything to the pawn shop, you know what it means to redeem it. You go back a few weeks later, pay the man money, and buy it back.

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Christ has redeemed us from bondage. He has redeemed us from prison. He has redeemed us by paying the debt that we owed. *“He has redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us.”*

The Bible says, *“In Adam we die; in Christ we are made alive. By man came death; by man came the resurrection.”* Do you see that? *“He restoreth my soul.”* I wish you could see that. *“The wages of sin is death.”* The result of sin is death. The fruit of sin is death *“but the gift of God is eternal life.”* Where, or in whom? It is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let's go back to the second thing that I talked about. The second thing was this; because of our sinful natures, we are at war with God. Yes sir, when you are at war with truth, you are at war with God.

When you tell a lie, it is an attack on God. That's exactly right; when we do anything evil or sinful it is an attack on God. God is truth and God is life, righteous, and holiness. When we are at war with righteousness we are at war with God. That is just so and we are in rebellion against God.

David said, *“Lord, against thee have I sinned. Against thee have I done this evil in thy sight that you might be clear when you judge that you might be justified when you condemn me.”*

Because of our sinful natures we are at war with God both in will and affection. We love sin and we hate God by nature. That's right!

The King of Salem, the Prince of Peace, has come. The King of Salem the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ is who He is and that is what He is called; *“He hath reconciled us to God.”* He has not only made peace for us with God but He has brought His peace into our hearts toward God. He said, *“My peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled.”*

He has conquered our hearts. He has made the enemy to be His friend. *“Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power. He has shed abroad His love in our hearts. He has led captivity captive.”* Where sin did once reign; Christ now reigns.

Our Lord Jesus Christ came into the land of the Gadarenes. He went down there into the tombs. There was a man in the tombs who was possessed of demons; he was a raging maniac. They couldn't keep clothes on him. They couldn't keep him chained or tied. No man could tame him; he was just a wild, raging, turbulent, maniac.

When he saw our Lord Jesus Christ, the demons within him cried out against Christ and said; *“we know who you are; you are the holy one of God. Have you come to torment us before our time?”*

Do you hear the hatred there? Do you hear the enmity there? Do you hear the warfare there as that naked, raging, maniac, faced our Lord Jesus Christ?

Well, the King of Peace, the King of Salem spoke words and He said; *“I command you to come out of him.”* Do you know what the Scripture says? The Scripture says, a little while later that

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same man who was full of such hate, enmity, and warfare, was sitting in his right mind, clothed at the feet of Christ.

The King had conquered him. That is what the Lord Jesus Christ does in these wicked hearts of ours; He comes and conquers us. He subdues us and *"the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts."*

He gives us peace and joy and rest. Where sin did reign, and where sin did abound; grace does much more abound and now Christ reigns. He is the King; He is my King. *"Sin shall not, therefore, reign over you."*

Sin remains and we battle it but it does not reign; Christ reigns. He is the King and He is the Priest. Did you get that? He atoned for us; He put away our sins; He delivered us from the curse of the Law. He delivered us from death by His atonement.

He is the King; He reigns over us. He has subdued our wills. He has conquered us and we are in love with Him. We bow at His feet. We lay down our arms of rebellion, our weapons of warfare, and we are unconditionally surrendered as Thomas fell at his feet and said; *"My Lord and my God."* That takes a miracle and a miracle is what salvation is.

Lastly: Because of the fall we know not God. We are in spiritual darkness, blindness, and ignorance. I talked about that a while ago. We are well versed in the ways and arts of evil and sin in this world.

Men can build bridges and they can put folks on the moon. They can invent all kinds of medicines to heal diseases but they cannot understand or see the simple mysteries, the profound, yet simple mysteries, of the singleness of Jesus Christ and the redemption of God.

They have no appetite for the Scriptures. They have no appetite for the things of God. They have no appetite for the Gospel of Jesus Christ; their appetite for the things of the world never satisfies them.

Their thirst for the world is never quenched. Their thirst for fame and influence, popularity, money, possessions and material things is never quenched; their thirst is never quenched. They have no thirst for God. *"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness; they shall be filled."*

Well, because of that fall, we are in spiritual darkness and ignorance. Moses said, *"that the Lord thy God will raise up from among the brethren a prophet."* He will be born of a woman, made under the law, God in human flesh, will walk this earth. *"He will be tested in all points as we are, yet without sin."*

That prophet, the Lord Jesus Christ, has come. John writing about it says, *"We know that the Son of God has come and hath given us an understanding that we may know Him that is true."*

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He has given us some understanding of God. Oh, we don't know all about God, no way; we can't comprehend God; we are not God. We have some understanding of His holiness. We have some understanding of His justice. We have some understanding of His grace; yes we do.

"He has given us and understanding that we may know Him that is true and that we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and this is eternal life."

He said, *"I am the light of the world. He that followeth after me shall never walk in darkness,"* never, never, never.

My friend; what I am saying is this; our death and curse is removed by Christ our Priest with His atonement. Our rebellion, will, and affection, is conquered by Christ our King. Our ignorance and blindness is dispelled by Christ who is our Prophet. *"This is my Son; hear ye Him."*

Let us notice in closing, the second part of that prophecy. He said, *"And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall not listen and receive the words which that Prophet shall speak in my name."* God said; *"I will require it of him."*

If you are not going to hear Christ; if you are not going to hear Him? Let me tell you what you are doing; *"He that believeth not shall be damned."*

Why is unbelief such a serious offense? I will tell you three or four things:

First of all: Unbelief puts a question mark on the wisdom of God.

The preaching of the cross is to those who believe wisdom. We see how God can be just and justifier. We see how mercy and truth can meet together. We can see how *"righteousness and peace have kissed one another."*

We see how the law can be honored. We see how the justice of God can be satisfied. We can see how every character and attribute of a Holy God can be satisfied, honored, and exalted, in the life, death, and intercession, of Jesus Christ the Lord.

That is the wisdom of God; *"but the preaching of the cross is to them who are perishing, foolishness."* They will say, "That is a bunch of foolishness." Do you know how serious that is?

Not to believe the Gospel is to look at God in the death of His Son and say, "God; that is a pack of foolishness; that is sheer nonsense. Whoever heard of such foolishness; I refuse to listen to it?" Christ says, *"I will require it at your hand."*

Secondly: Unbelief strikes at the love of God.

Let me tell you a story quickly: There was an old Presbyterian preacher by the name of Daniel Baker. His father and mother both died when he was a little boy. He and his sister were sent to an orphanage.

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He was about seven or eight and his sister was about nine or ten years of age. He loved his sister. He had no parents and all of his love was given to his sister.

She got angry with him one day and he was so grieved because she was angry. He took all that he had, all of his little savings, and went down to the store and bought her a pretty vase. He brought it back to her.

She was still angry. He handed her the vase with a smile and said; "I love you." She took that vase out of his hand and dashed it in pieces at his feet. He said that he stood there in unbelief. He didn't believe what he saw. She took the object of his love, the gift of his love, and despised it and dashed into pieces at his feet.

Christ is the gift of God's love. When you don't believe Him, unbelief says; "I despise your gift of love!"