

Christ, the Prophet
(Deuteronomy 18:18-22)

Introduction:

1. In one of the verses we studied this morning (Matthew 16:14), the apostles told Jesus that some people thought He was *"one of the prophets."*
2. We pointed out that Jesus was not just "a prophet" -- He was "THE PROPHET" who was to come into the world.
3. Perhaps this is a good time for us to study this subject in more detail.
4. (Deuteronomy 18:18-22) We read about various prophets.
 - a. Vs.18&19 mention a Prophet who would come at a later time.
 - 1) He would come from among the Jewish people.
 - 2) He would be like Moses.
 - 3) He would speak the words given to Him by God.
 - 4) God will hold accountable those who reject His Word.
 - b. (vs.20-22) We read about some other prophets.
 - 1) They would not speak the things that God wanted them to speak (vs.22 tells how they could be identified).
 - 2) The Israelites were not to listen to such prophets.
 - 3) Such prophets were to be put to death.
5. In our lesson we will:
 - a. show that Jesus fulfilled this prophecy about a great Prophet who would come
 - b. consider some responsibilities that we have toward His Word.
6. Let us begin by showing that . . .

Discussion:

- I. JESUS FULFILLED THE PROPHECY GIVEN IN DEUTERONOMY 18:18-19
 - A. (Acts 3:19-26) Peter stated that Jesus is the Prophet whom Moses said would come.
 - B. Let us see if Jesus possessed the characteristics that Moses listed.
 1. This Prophet would come from among the Jewish people.
 - a. Was Jesus a Jew?
 - b. We learn from His genealogies in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 that He was a descendant of Abraham.
 2. This Prophet would be like Moses.
 - a. Was Jesus like Moses?
 - b. There are some similarities between Christ and Moses.
 - 1) (Deuteronomy 34:10-12) Moses was a great prophet because of the mighty works he performed.
 - 2) The works that Jesus performed led people to recognize Him as the great Prophet of Deuteronomy 18.
 - a) (John 6:14) After Jesus fed the 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish, the people said, *"This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world."*
 - b) (John 7:40) Some people who heard Jesus speak said, *"Of a truth this is the Prophet."*
 - c. While there are some similarities between Christ and Moses, the Lord is far greater than Moses (Hebrews 3:1-6).
 3. This Prophet would speak the words given to Him by God.
 - a. Did Jesus speak the words that God gave to Him?
 - b. As Jesus prayed in John 17, He stated in vs.8 that God had given His words to Him and that He had given them to His followers.
 - c. See John 12:49-50.
 4. God will hold accountable those who reject the words of this Prophet.
 - a. Can this be said of Christ?
 - b. See John 12:47-48

- C. The Scriptures clearly show that Jesus is the great Prophet whom Moses said would come.
- D. Now, let us consider . . .
- II. SOME OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WE HAVE TOWARD HIS WORD
 - A. We must appreciate the Lord's words for what they are.
 - 1. His words are **everlasting** (Matthew 24:35 - "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away*").
 - 2. His words are **spirit and life** (John 6:63 - "*the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*").
 - 3. His words are **words of eternal life** (John 6:68 - Peter said to Jesus, "*Thou hast the words of eternal life*").
 - B. We must "continue" [abide] in the Lord's words.
 - 1. We must do this to be blessed (James 1:25).
 - 2. We must do this to be made free (John 8:31-32).
 - 3. We must do this to have our prayers answered (John 15:7).
 - 4. We must do this to have the Father and the Son abide with us (John 14:23).

Conclusion:

- 1. In summary,:
 - a. God raised up this great Prophet, Jesus
 - b. God gave His words to Jesus, and Jesus has revealed them
 - c. we are responsible for following His words.
- 2. The Jews were instructed to put false prophets to death.
- 3. Instead, they killed Jesus by having Him crucified.
- 4. Little did they realize it at the time, but the Lord's death makes it possible for us to be saved from our sins.
- 5. Have you come to Him for salvation?
- 6. Are you keeping His Word?