

A PROPHET FROM THE MIDST >>>

DEUTERONOMY 18:14 - 19:21

~ Our consideration of Deuteronomy thus far in our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God's has been painful, to say the least. Perhaps excruciating would be the better adjective. If you have not read all eleven previous safari reports from this book of the Bible, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now. In our last report, we came to recognize how this present evil world does not have qualified, capable men - who truly love and believe God - teaching His Word. That's why the world is totally, completely and disgustingly ignorant of and confused by the Bible. Let's put it this way: most so-called Christian's are complete phonies.

Mainstream religion is a joke to God. He laughs in derision at the contemporary liberal church and their religious philosophies. The baby talking, psycho-babbling ilk proclaiming they are ordained pastors today have literally stunted any possible spiritual growth in most self-professing believers. From what I see, men are not even capable of developing a thought that exceeds three sentences. Most cannot even form one complete sentence. The teaching of the Word of God has been hi-jacked by pseudo-theologian crackheads who are piping a drunken tune for rats to follow them to hell. You will never grow – in fact – you shall surely die in your religious abominations if you are following after religion.

I see a lot of people on this forum on which I teach who are playing the Jesus card; but are not saved. They are lost. Going to church is nothing in the world but a burden to them. I doubt very many people are honest with themselves because they sure are not honest with God. Isaiah ridiculed the people in his day that turned to idolatry. Is your religion a burden to you today? I would bet my life it is a cumbersome, burdensome and dreaded chore to study your Bible. Or does Christ TRULY carry you over the hard ground?

Two reports ago, I promised you the test for the false prophet in Israel according to the Bible. We'll consider that in this report; and I caution all you soft-hearted, soft-headed, super-duper saints to stop reading this

report and go make some cocktails – or whatever you do when others aren't looking – because this report is aimed at YOU. It won't be pleasant. We have considered some very pertinent rules and regulations in the last several chapters regarding the priesthood. God didn't mention how the king, or the prophet was to receive his salary, for example, but God laid out exactly how the priest was to be paid.

Naturally, the salary of a preacher always seems to be a remarkably touchy issue. Well, God laid it all on the line and spelled out exactly what the priests were to receive. We also examined warnings against all types of spiritualism and satanic worship in our last several reports. The reason God gave them these commands is because these were the things that were going on. If these things were not a problem, then God would not have even mentioned them. The people that occupied the Promised Land and whom Israel drove out and slaughtered were being punished for doing the things mentioned in verse fourteen. They are being removed from their land as a direct result of their sins. So, with that background, we come to the test of the false prophet....

XVIII

14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

15 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;

~ God tells them in no uncertain terms to listen to His prophets. The prophets just happened to be the ones telling the truth – that's primary. More importantly, however, listening to the prophets would prepare Israel to recognize, identify and OBEY the final Messenger – our Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ. Many people ask me why God doesn't reveal Himself today if all of this is true. My answer, my friends, is that the period at the end of our sentence is the Lord Jesus Christ. All that follows Christ are quotation marks that designate the end of a paragraph. At the end of His Book, He wrote

“finished.” God has NOTHING to say to this world that He has not already said in His Word.

If Christ returned right now He would be quoting Scripture – and likely Deuteronomy. Well, we’re told to hear Him and to hearken unto Him. The voice from Heaven right now in this report says, “.... the Lord Jesus Christ is My beloved Son from Heaven in Whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.” Are you listening to God as you read along in His Word? Are you truly listening to the Spirit of God speak? Have you prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment in your Bible study? These things were written unto Israel as examples unto us. God has the final word in your life, my friends. Christ is God’s ultimate, final and full revelation of Himself to this world. Moses, way back at the beginning, said all of this first....

16 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.

17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

18 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.

~ The Lord Jesus said again and again that He spoke those things that the Father sent Him to speak. Jesus makes it more than clear that He had come to do God’s will and nothing else. Well, Jesus did God’s will and when He had finished His earthly ministry, and when we arrive at the seventeenth chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus said, “I have finished the work that Thou gavest Me to do.” Everything God commanded Jesus to speak was spoken by Him here on earth. Jesus said it all, friends; and Jesus has nothing left to say to this world. Most people desire God to say something new. They find no satisfaction with Him repeating Himself over and over and over again. The problem is, they haven’t heard half of what He has said

already. What they have heard, they reject and despise. My friends, either way we play church with God – we lose.

It is the innate curiosity of man to want to explore the unknown. We have an insatiable humanly natural desire to probe the mysterious. Man has dug down into every crevice on earth and has gone as far out in space as we can get – but he lost himself along the way. Abraham went out not knowing wither he went – but God knew where he was going, and He was leading Abraham every step of the way. I suppose the "spirit of Columbus" is the primordial default state of mankind. Our current probe into outer space is not only a scientific disaster, but it is financially unfeasible – not to mention the fact that man cannot live naturally in space. We seem to be so predicated on nature that the entire space race is just another manifestation of mankind's hopelessly contradictory self.

We would not have a complete report without examining man's other scientific mistress: the investigation of time. Yes, the mysterious future is an element of life that man can't resist contemplating; the past a burden that cannot be changed. We somehow think we need to know what's beyond tomorrow. I would like to know – wouldn't you? Memory can take us back to the past, but we have no vehicle to advance us into the future. Today was tomorrow but yesterday. Time, space and matter are our limitations right now, friends. So, these "spiritualists" and "astrologers" rose up to fill the gaps in mankind's philosophies. Man has a love affair with necromancy and divination and – guess what? – God hates it, and God hates those who engage in it – even those who just dabble in it a little bit out of curiosity. This is ALL connected with idolatry, and it is satanic.

If you have enough experience with the occult, you will know there is a certain degree of accuracy in witchcraft. The Oracle at Delphi were a fascination to mankind for a while; and there was a certain amount of satanically correct information gleaned from it, I'll be the first to admit that. Adolph Hitler is said to have resorted to some sort of fortune-telling type trick. In Washington, D.C. the fortune teller is a hot commodity. Many people are making a fine living by simply speaking of the uncertainty of the future in guesses. When one hears what they want to hear, they pay big

bucks to hear more. When one hears something contrary to their personal life-philosophy, they reject, resent and resort to violence in an effort to silence the opponent if they have to.

Man has never been given dominion over the future. We have no authority in the dealings on the planet earth beyond right now. God alone holds those secrets, and He isn't divulging that information in His Word. Interestingly, even so, the single most unique characteristic of the Word of God is that it moves beyond the present into the hereafter. For me, personally, the irrefutable proof that the Bible is the Word of God is fulfilled prophecy. There was a time I would have said that number one proof was transformed lives; but I have discovered I can't really discern the transformed life too well – so, I need something more in that connection. What I do understand are the prophecies of the Lord Jesus Christ coming to this earth as the Son of God and dying for my sins, being buried and resurrected on the third day according to Scriptures for my justification.

I don't debate prophecy – or any other part of the Word of God, friends. I teach the sound doctrine of the apostles. If you don't believe the Spirit of God teaches through me, that indicates you simply do not understand prophecy. Period. Discourse will generally prove futile and unhelpful to either of us. Insistence on profound ignorance does not diminish the truth of a matter nor mitigate the culpability of those disseminating error. Under those conditions, of course, false prophets arose in Israel - and we still have them in the modern church. They attempt to steal the status and position that belongs to the man ordained by God. Well, Israel had a very definite way to detect the counterfeit prophet. The false prophet cannot apply the rules and regulations of the Word of God because they have no idea what they are. Jeremiah tells us all about the false prophet.

Jeremiah 14:14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart ~

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19 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.

20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?

22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

~ Isaiah was a true prophet of God. Isaiah's prophecy was of a virgin who conceived and gave birth. Isaiah marked out clearly the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, His birth, life and death. Now, let's suppose someone in Israel challenged Isaiah's prophecies. If you asked Isaiah how long it would be before this all happened, he would have certainly told you he had no idea. Naturally, the crowd would laugh at that, and they would wonder how they could possibly know if this were true; after all, it would be seven hundred years before Christ came to the earth. Well, the test had to be a local and immediate prophecy; a local situation would have to be spoken into correctly BEFORE any long-term prophecies would be received by the king or by the priests or nation. If that local prophecy wasn't fulfilled EXACTLY as stated, then that prophet was out of business - and would prophecy no more, because they would be summarily executed.

We look back on the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy two thousand years ago and we know he was accurate. Well, the reason Israel accepted Isaiah was because he had previously told Hezekiah what would happen with the Assyrian army. The Assyrian's had surrounded Jerusalem. Isaiah prophesied that not one arrow would come over the wall. The Assyrian army had mowed every nation in the world down at this point. With two hundred thousand men on horses, and Sennacherib saying those awful things he was

saying at the wall of Jerusalem, I find it amazing that one soldier didn't just lob an arrow over the wall to see if someone yelled "ouch!" Not ONE arrow flew, and we know the rest of the story. IF one arrow had flown over that wall, we would likely have never known anything about Isaiah.

We find all the prophets – again and again – speaking into a local situation; and they foretold every single one of them correctly. Israel had no trouble whatsoever determining a true prophet of God and a false prophet of Baal and Belial. Those are the only two kinds of "prophets" there are today, too, by the way. Men throughout history have come and gone predicting the end of the world. Of course, we're all still here. Interestingly, the church is never warned against false prophets, either. The reason for that is because they just aren't doing business in the church – we don't have them – prophets do not exist, and they aren't needed anyways. We have no reason to listen to someone guess at things when we can open our Bible and get our own answers by listening to the Holy Spirit speak of the things of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter told us very specifically that "... as there were false prophets amongst the children of Israel so shall there come FALSE TEACHERS among you...."

XIX

~ We have examined the cities of refuge before; and these were cities established exclusively to provide sanctuary to the person who had accidentally slain someone. We're talking about accidental deaths where there was no malice or forethought involved. This chapter gives the examples of exactly what these were. That city of refuge was a protection until a fair trial could be held. I suggest you read this chapter entirely and carefully after praying for wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment, but I will only hit the high points....

8 And if the LORD thy God enlarge thy coast, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, and give thee all the land which he promised to give unto thy fathers;

9 If thou shalt keep all these commandments to do them, which I command thee this day, to love the LORD thy God, and to walk ever in his ways;

~ OBEDIENCE is required to walk in His ways, my beloved. We have seen this theme all the way through Deuteronomy. Interestingly, the other three cities were never established, and were never needed. As we learned previously, Israel occupied about thirty thousand square miles out of the three hundred thousand square miles they were promised by God. Further, we have few accounts of the utilization of the cities of refuge....

14 Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.

~ We come to the protection of the rights to property in verse fourteen; and in verse fifteen, we begin a revelation of how awesome the law really was – and what it IS! Anyone who thinks they want to live under the Mosaic Law ought to take some time to find out what it truly entailed. You should thank God He isn't judging on the basis of the Mosaic System of Levitical Law - because you and I would be put out of the camp. Let's thank God He saves us by grace. If God were saving by law, we would all be hopeless. You could never measure up – in fact, you would ALREADY have been put to death.

We have a careless and reckless attitude towards the law these days in this affluent society. If you have enough money you don't even THINK about the laws of this land. Well, God enforces His law and it's an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. The throne of Christ is our mercy seat; and it is only available because Christ died for our sins. If the blood of the covenant had not been sprinkled and if Christ had not paid the penalty, then you and I would be eternally lost; and God would still be righteous and holy. The pardon for sinners is not in keeping the law; God saves us by His remarkable, enigmatic, wonderful and merciful grace. This section of Scripture is so wonderfully and supremely important in these days that are saturated with false teachers and unsound doctrine....

14 Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.

21 And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

~ God's grace is available to anyone who will come to Christ and confess they are sinners who cannot meet the requirements of the law. When you accept the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, and trust Him as your Savior – then, and only then, will He save you. Christ is the only One Who can provide the perfect righteousness that the law demands. Will you finally turn to Him today; or will you continue to deny and disobey Him?

In the next leg of our Spiritual Safari, we're going to examine warfare, the draft, and the conditions under which a man is NOT to serve in the army. Israel had the same problems we have today. God places certain rules down that would prevent a man from going to war under certain circumstances. If we had paid attention to God's law – instead of manufacturing our own advice – then we simply would not be in the mess we are in today as a war-torn world; which is exactly what we are ~

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