

The Prophet (Deut. 18:15-22)

The nations of Canaan often looked to diviners, fortune-tellers, sorcerers, and other mystics for guidance. God calls all of these an abomination, and was emphatic that the Israelites would not use them or turn to them (Deut. 18:9-14). Immediately after this prohibition, God provides instruction on how His will would be communicated to the people—He would use the prophets. Like Moses, prophets would be from Israel. This would keep Israel from turning to foreign diviners and idolatry. Prophets would not speak their ideas or opinions, but the Word of God. Thus, God expected the Israelites to listen to the message of the prophets.

Ultimately though, the prophet that Moses looked forward to was Jesus. While Deuteronomy 18:15-22 describes the general nature of the prophet, it's clear from many New Testament passages that the people were anticipating “the Prophet” (John 1:21; 6:14; 7:40). That prophet was, of course, Jesus (Acts 3:17-24). Jesus wasn't just “like” Moses though—He was greater than Moses! Hebrews 3 reminds us that Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses. In Jesus, God has fully revealed His will for mankind. If we seek to please God, then we must obey Jesus. If we reject Jesus, it will be held against us in the final day of judgment.



Questions

1. What mountains were to be the mountains of the blessing and the curse?

2. Would the Israelites be allowed to offer burnt offerings anywhere they chose once they inhabited the Promised Land? _____
3. Summarize how the people were instructed to determine if a prophet was from God or not. _____

4. In celebration of the Passover, how many days were the Israelites commanded to eat unleavened bread? _____
5. What did God forbid Israelite kings from doing? _____

6. What did God command Israelite kings should do? _____

7. What did the Law teach concerning fortune-tellers? _____

8. How many witnesses were required to establish a charge against someone in court? _____

“That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



Deuteronomy 12-22

The Law Given Anew

Overview

After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, Israel was finally ready to inherit the Promised Land. The rebellious generation that had come out of Egypt had all died off, and a new generation had grown up in the wilderness. The Israelites that camped on the eastern shore of the Jordan River, however, had been children or not even born when God first gave the Law to Moses at Mount Sinai. Thus, Deuteronomy is the “second giving” or “retelling” of the Law. After reminding the Israelites of their history in Deuteronomy 1-3, Moses begins the main sermon that makes up the book—the retelling of the Law (4-26). Since Israel was a theocracy, the Law covered all areas of life; moral, civil, and ceremonial. The New Covenant is not limited to a culture or nationality, but God's Word still governs the entirety of our being. Even under the New Covenant God has laid out His law for our morality, how He desires us to worship Him, and how we should live with our fellow man.

Worship (Deut. 12)

God was very clear about how He was to be worshipped. God also knew that the Israelites would be tempted to borrow worship practices from heathen nations. Deuteronomy 12 is just one place that shows the importance of worship, and the importance of worshipping God's way.

vv. 1-4 Warning against idolatry or worshipping in the manner of the Canaanites. We don't borrow worship practices from the world; we simply look to God's commands.

vv. 5-7 God will choose the place to be worshipped, not man. God is the director of worship, and we obey His commands. A place to worship also indicates a regular practice.

vv. 8-14 Worship involves sacrifice, but it is a source of joy, for it is an opportunity to serve God. Also, worship is not just a personal endeavor, it is a communal event. It is something the whole congregation of God's people partake in together.

Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Deut. 12-13

Tuesday: Deut. 14-15

Wednesday: Deut. 16-18

Thursday: Deut. 19-20

Friday: Deut. 21-22

Warnings in Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy is full of several specific warnings. While these pertain specifically to the Hebrews under the Mosaic Law, these warnings have some very contemporary messages for us as well:

Beware and take heed of...

Idolatry - 4:19; 4:23; 11:16; 12:30

Forgetfulness - 4:23; 6:12; 8:11

Forsaking the Priests - 12:19

False Worship - 12:13

Wicked Thoughts - 15:9

Forsaking the Covenant - 27:9

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