

Deuteronomy 18:15-22 • A Prophet Like Unto Moses

Introduction

But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. You may say in your heart, "How will we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?" When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.
Deuteronomy 18:20-22

It does not matter if a person predicts something in the Name of the Lord because they are inspired by a demon or if they do it by the futility of their own mind. Either way, a false prophet is a false prophet. In Jeremiah's time he was numerically overwhelmed by false prophets, but particularly irritated with Hananiah's false predictions. God told Jeremiah:

*Then the Lord said to me, "The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds."
Jeremiah 14:14*

These false prophets were deceived by what was in their own mind. But even after their prophecies were proven to be false, people continued to follow them.

*The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?
Jeremiah 5:31*

When Jesus Himself warned about false prophets in the Last Days, many people think He was talking about the Jehovah Witnesses, the Mormons, the Hare Krishnas, etc. There is no doubt that the proliferation of these cults if of some prophetic significance, and they are certainly false prophets. But those are not the false prophets Jesus was warning about when He said, "If possible the elect will be deceived". He was speaking of those that would arise to imitate Him. And the best way we can learn to spot a false prophet is to learn all we can about Jesus, who was a prophet like Moses.

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. ¹⁶This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.’

¹⁷The LORD said to me, ‘They have spoken well. ¹⁸I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, “Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land.”

[Read Deuteronomy 18:15-18]

Point: *It's not just present-day scholars, but the Talmud as well that states that these verses refer to the Messiah. Even Jewish scholars that have not accepted Christ as the Messiah confirm that these verses describe **THE** Messiah. We know that it is about Jesus, who was a prophet like Moses.*

[Note to Small Group Leaders: You may want to assign the verses listed below to members of the group in advance to make things go quicker.]

[Read Exodus 1:8-11a; 14]

Q: Moses was born under an oppressive, foreign rule. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

¹Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

Luke 2:1

Jesus was born under an oppressive, foreign rule.

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¹¹So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor...¹⁴and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them.

¹⁵Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other was named Puah; ¹⁶and he said, “When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.”

²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months.

²³By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

¹⁰The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. And she named him Moses, and said, “Because I drew him out of the water.”

¹Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses...²and they said, “Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?” And the LORD heard it. ³(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.)...⁶He said,

“Hear now My words:

If there is a prophet among you

I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision.

I shall speak with him in a dream.

⁷Not so, with My servant Moses,

[Read Exodus 1:15-16]

Q: A wicked decree decreed that Moses and the male Jewish children be killed. What is the parallel in Jesus’ life?

¹⁶Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

Matthew 2:16

A wicked king decreed that Jesus and the male Jewish children be killed.

[Read Exodus 2:2 and Hebrews 11:23]

Q: Moses’ life was saved and preserved through the faith of his parents. What is the parallel in Jesus’ life?

¹³Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

¹⁴So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

Matthew 2:13-14

Jesus’ life was saved and preserved through the faith of his parents.

[Read Exodus 2:10]

Q: Moses received protection in Egypt for a time. What is the parallel in Jesus’ life?

¹⁴So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. ¹⁵He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.”

Matthew 2:14-15

Jesus received protection in Egypt for a time.

[Read Numbers 12:1-8]

Q: There were people trying to compete with Moses because of his wisdom. What is the parallel in Jesus’ life?

⁴⁶Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

Luke 2:46-47

From His youth, Jesus demonstrated tremendous wisdom and understanding, and others wanted to compete with Him; but they could not do it.

He is faithful in all My household;
⁸With him I speak mouth to mouth,
Even openly, and not in dark sayings,
And he beholds the form of the LORD.
Why then were you not afraid
To speak against My servant, against
Moses?”

¹Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, “Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

¹⁴But he said, “Who made you a prince or a judge over us? Are you intending to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and said, “Surely the matter has become known.”

¹⁵When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well.

²¹Moses was willing to dwell with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses.

¹Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman);

[Read Exodus 32:1]

Q: Moses was rejected for a time by the people of Israel. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

²¹But the governor said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²²Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Crucify Him!”

Matthew 27:21-22

³⁹“For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”

Matthew 23:39

²⁵For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

Romans 11:25

Jesus was rejected for a time by the people of Israel.

[Read Exodus 2:14, 15 & 21]

Q: Moses was rejected by the Jews but accepted by the Gentiles. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

²⁰Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear;

Romans 11:20

¹“I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, ‘Here am I, here am I,’ To a nation which did not call on My name.

¹³Therefore, thus says the Lord God, “Behold, My servants will eat, but you will be hungry. Behold, My servants will drink, but you will be thirsty. Behold, My servants will rejoice, but you will be put to shame. ¹⁴Behold, My servants will shout joyfully with a glad heart, But you will cry out with a heavy heart, And you will wail with a broken spirit. ¹⁵You will leave your name for a curse to My chosen ones, And the Lord God will slay you. But My servants will be called by another name.

Isaiah 65:1, 13-15

Jesus was rejected by the Jews, but accepted by the Gentiles.

[Read Numbers 12:1]

Q: Moses was criticized by his family because he took a Gentile wife. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

²⁰And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an

extent that they could not even eat a meal. ²¹When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses."

Mark 3:20-21

Jewish people criticize Jesus because, in figure or in type, He took a mainly Gentile wife, the church. Note: The book of Ruth is read in the synagogues on the day of Pentecost – the story of a Jewish man taking a Gentile wife and a baby who as called "the redeemer" in Bethlehem being born.

[Read Exodus 32:31-32]

³¹Then Moses returned to the LORD, and said, "Alas, this people has committed a great sin, and they have made a god of gold for themselves. ³²But now, if You will, forgive their sin—and if not, please blot me out from Your book which You have written!"

Q: Moses prayed to God to forgive the sins of his people, and Moses was willing to bear the consequences of their sin and their guilt. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

²¹For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²²who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; ²³and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

1 Peter 2:21-24

Jesus prayed to God to forgive the sins of His people and He was willing to receive the consequences of their sin and their guilt.

[Read Exodus 34:28]

²⁸So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

Q: Moses fasted for forty days and forty nights to bring a covenant to God's people. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

²And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

Matthew 4:2

Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights to bring a covenant to God's people.

[Read Deuteronomy 34:10]

¹⁰Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

Q: Moses had a face-to-face relationship with God. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

¹⁸No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

John 1:18

Jesus had a face-to-face relationship with God.

[Read Exodus 34:34-35]

³⁴But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take off the veil until he came out; and whenever he came out and spoke to the sons of Israel what he had been commanded, ³⁵the sons of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone. So Moses would replace the veil over his face until he went in to speak with Him.

Q: When Moses met God face-to-face, he glowed supernaturally. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

²And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

Matthew 17:2

Jesus glowed supernaturally like Moses.

Q: Exodus we read that God spoke to Moses directly from heaven and a voice was heard. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

²³And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified...²⁸"Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

John 12:23, 28

God spoke to Jesus directly from heaven.

[Read Jude 9]

Q: An angel guarded the tomb of Moses. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

²And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. ³And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

Matthew 28:2-6

An angel guarded Jesus' tomb.

[Exodus 3:13-14]

Q: Moses revealed God's name to God's people. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

⁶"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

¹¹"I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. ¹²While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

John 17:6, 11-12

Jesus revealed God's name to God's people.

[Read Exodus 16:14-15]

Q: Moses fed God's people in large numbers, supernaturally. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

¹⁹Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, ²⁰and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets.

Matthew 14:19-20

Jesus fed God's people in large numbers, supernaturally.

⁹But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

¹³Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"

¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

¹⁴When the layer of dew evaporated, behold, on the surface of the wilderness there was a fine flake-like thing, fine as the frost on the ground.

¹⁵When the sons of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

And Moses said to them, "It is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.

¹⁰Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹for all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land, ¹²and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

⁷Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!”

⁸So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

[Read Deuteronomy 34:10-12]

Q: Moses did miracles, signs and wonders as no other had ever done. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

³⁶“But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

John 5:36

The Lord Jesus did works, did signs and wonders, and did miracles as no one else has ever done.

[Read Exodus 24:7-8]

Q: Moses went to a mountain, made a covenant with blood, and covered God's people with that blood. What is the parallel in Jesus' life?

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” ²⁷And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26:26-28

¹¹But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; ¹²and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? ¹⁵For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 9:11-15

The Lord Jesus went to a mountain, made a covenant with blood, and covered His people with that blood.

Overall Point

There were many great men of God in the Old Testament – Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, David – just to name a few, but there was only one prophet like Moses, the Lord Jesus Christ, the true Messiah of Israel.

Overall Application

In reference to false prophets – and the fact that Satan operates by imitating the ways of God – many of these characteristics are what the Antichrist will counterfeit to fulfill Christ's warning:

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Matthew 24:24

[Please Note: This study is directly adapted with permission from the teaching of Jacob Prasch of [Moriel Ministries](http://MorielMinistries.com). It can be found in sermon form here. Not for commercial use.]

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