



“A Prophet Like Moses”

Christmas Foretold: Ancient Prophecies of the Messiah’s Coming

Deuteronomy 18:15

Introduction: Long before the first Christmas, the good news about Jesus was already written. This Advent season, we’ll journey back into the Old Testament and discover how Jesus is the fulfillment of ancient prophecy.

Deuteronomy 18:15 – “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.”

BACKGROUND

Old Testament Prophets and Prophecy

- Prophets were uniquely called by God.
- Prophecy involved both foretelling and forthtelling.
- Prophets often called people to true worship and genuine obedience. They “served subpoenas” to those who were in violation of God’s covenant.
- Prophets spoke with divine authority as God’s spokesman.

Context of the Passage:

- Chapter 18 begins with Moses listing out the provisions that are to be made for the Levitical priests.
- He provides a warning against abominable practices that the people are to abstain from.
- He describes the role of the prophet and how to spot a false prophet.

The prophecy finds final fulfillment in the prophet who is indeed greater than the prophet Moses – Jesus Christ.

There are two major takeaways from the prophecy:

I. Looking for the Prophet.

(v. 15a) *“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers...”*

Deuteronomy 34:10-12 – “And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.”

John 1:21-22 – “And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

Jesus is like Moses.

Hebrews 3:1-2 – “Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God’s house.”

II. Listening to the Prophet.

(v. 15b) *"...it is to him you shall listen."*

Acts 3:18-23 – "But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'"

Jesus is Greater than Moses.

Jesus is Worthy of More Glory.

Hebrews 3:3 – "For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself."

Jesus Created Moses.

Hebrews 3:4 – "For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God."

John 1:1-3 – "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Jesus is Son. Moses is Servant.

Hebrews 3:5-6a – "Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son."

Conclusion: We need a word from God and a way to God. Jesus is the Word and the Way. (John 1:1, 14; 14:6)

We are His people which is evident by our hope. Hebrews 3:6b "And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope."

Colossians 1:15-20 – "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Can you think of a story (book or movie) in which the ending was foretold throughout but was only clear at the story's conclusion?
2. Aside from those mentioned in the sermon, are there other ways that you see Jesus either *like* Moses or *greater* than Moses?
3. Describe a time when you put your hope or confidence in something other than Christ.
4. Why is it helpful to remind ourselves during Advent season of the hope that produces confidence and boasting that can only be found in Jesus Christ?