

TEXT SUMMARY

The Book of Deuteronomy is a collection of sermons Moses delivered to the people of God just before they entered the Land promised to their fathers. (This <u>Bible Project's video on Deuteronomy</u> explains its overall structure and message.) In our text, <u>Deut 18:15-18</u>, Moses promises that God will raise up a prophet to guide His people. That prophecy was fulfilled in a smaller sense in the men God used over the centuries to speak His Word to His people, but it was fulfilled in its ultimate sense in Christ.

INTRODUCTION (OBSETVATION):

Context:

- **1.** Moses is responding to a request the people made when they first were given God's Law, four decades earlier. Read Deut 5:22-27 to see that request.
- 2. Moses knew his people would be tempted to access divine knowledge the way the peoples of the Land did. Read Deut 18:9-14 to see his warning; he didn't want them to seek divine guidance the wrong way.
- **3.** Moses knew that his people would need a test to discern whether a prophet was truly speaking for God.
 - What was that test? Read Deut 18:20-22.
 - How did Jesus pass this test (what did He predict, and how was His prediction fulfilled)?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

These cross-references show up in the sermon; they speak of how God has "spoken" to us in Christ. How do these texts shed light on our text?

- **1.** Heb 1:1-2
- **2.** John 1:1
- **3.** John 1:14

DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

- 1. When Jesus came, He knew that He was the fulfillment of Moses' prophecy; He was the voice of God to His people. Yet few of his countrymen recognized the voice of God in Jesus (John 1:11). Jesus repeatedly urged people to hear Him: "he who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Matt 11:15).
 - Our distracted age mitigates against careful listening to the voice of God in His Word. What are some of the things that distract you from hearing God?
 - When you try to dedicate quiet time to be with God, what are the sources of distraction for you?
 - How do you deal with those distractions? (Someone once observed that when we are quiet with God and distractions come, they are like uninvited guests who keep calling; if we ignore them long enough, they will stop coming.)
- 2. In Jesus' parable of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16), we hear a somber warning: If someone refused to hear God's voice as He has spoken in Scripture, he would refuse to hear even if someone raised from the dead (v. 31).
 - Was there ever a time in your life (perhaps now) when your heart was too hard to hear from God?
 - What can you do to "tune" your heart to hear God's voice in Scripture, particularly in the life and teachings of Jesus?