

Sermon: Deuteronomy 18:9-22 Listen to Him

The issue: What is God saying

1. For millennia man has wanted to know what the god or gods they serve have been saying.
 - a. This desire to hear from God has morphed from a desire to hear God's will or to know him and his character to really a desire to know personal standing with the deity.
 - i. Is he or she happy with me?
 - ii. Are they going to send rain? Nice rain? Or a tempest of judgment?
 - iii. Will I be successful in this endeavor? - a successful hunt, or business venture or military campaign.
 - b. And because there is not a desire to know God in the way that he wants to be known humans have most often resorted to trying to decipher what God is saying by guesswork.
 - i. This is part of the cyclical process of creating false god's. We want to know what God thinks or wants but we don't know him so we can't know what he wants so we project on God our ideals or what we want and in so doing we have created a god after our likeness. Since this god we have now created is no god at all and since he cannot reveal anything to us we must now go to work interpreting what this god we have created wants or is telling us to do. So we begin to offer it things that we think will make it happy and then we interpret things that happen as a result.
 - c. Moreover, there are real spiritual forces who are in opposition to the one true and living God who are happy to give a worshiper some level of spiritual experience and power so that what you end up with is people who desire to know god and to hear from him who are not approaching him on his terms but on their own. This produces a false worship which must be propped up people interpreting the things around them as the will of the god's or as omens or signs. Then these interpreters are given some level of success or power from a spiritual entity who is not god and a religion is born.
 - d. And always within false religion there are those who are given a heightened ability to interact with the spiritual or supernatural through humans sacrifice, divination, fortune telling, interpretation of omens, sorcery, charms, mediation, necromancy, or inquire of the dead
 - e. Thus there are voices in the world who are want your attention.
 - i. Modern application:
 1. I wonder if in our modern age our counterfeit god is information.
 - a. Think about it for a moment. We can know with certainty what the weather will be for the next 10 days.
 - b. We can know what the economy is doing. What the prices of commodities are.

- c. We can know call a loved one any where around the world and inquire about their well being
 - 2. With all this information what need to we have to consult with the dead, or practice divination
 - 3. And yet when someone finds out when you were born they comment on what zodiac sign your birth is associated with. And horoscopes are printed in every pop-culture magazine and tabloid
 - f. We want to know what God is saying and
- 2. Who He's saying it through - a prophet
 - a. Moses knows he can't live forever and he understands the role he has played in the life of the people of God and looking forward the time they would be without him and he warns them not to seek God through worldly means
 - b. He tells them that God will raise up a prophet.
 - c. Now the fact that he says he will raise up "a" prophet was understood dualistically in Judaism - it had two meanings.
 - i. First- it meant that God would raise up individuals at various times
 - 1. In the immediate context, Joshua would be the leader of Israel though whom God would give them the promised land. He would hear from God similarly to how Moses did.
 - 2. After him, would come the period of the Judges where God would raise up leaders to call Israel to repentance, deliver Israel from their enemies and judge their conduct
 - 3. Then Israel would ask for a king and he would always have a prophet or two who spoke to him on behalf of God - men like Samuel, Nathan, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel
 - 4. When the people were sent out of their land because of their disobedience God encouraged them with men like Daniel and Ezekiel
 - 5. Jonah was a prophet sent to speak to non Jews
 - 6. Amos 2:11 I raised up prophets from your sons and Nazirites from your young men. Is this not true, O children of Israel?" declares the LORD.
 - 7. Jeremiah 1:9 Then the LORD reached out His hand, touched my mouth, and said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.
 - 8. Then came one in the spirit of Elijah - John the baptist
 - ii. Second: it meant that God would send a particular prophet, the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior.
 - 1. John 1:21 John the baptist is asked if he is "the prophet?"
 - 2. John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, . . . "

3. John 4: even the samaritan woman knows about and is looking forward to the coming of the Masiah
 4. Acts 4:22 Peter quotes Deuteronomy 18:18 to remind his audience that they were looking for the prophet
 5. Acts 7:37 Steven quotes Deuteronomy 18:18 in his address just before his martyrdom
 - a. So we see that Israel not only had prophets -plural, but that they were looking for "the" prophet like Moses
 - i. Hebrew 3:5-6 ⁵Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.^c
3. Jesus is the Prophet who tells us what God is saying
 - a. His followers said he was the prophet
 - i. John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."
 - ii. In Acts 4 when Peter quotes Deuteronomy 18:18 and in act 7 when Stephen does the same they are telling people that Jesus is that Prophet
 - iii. IN hebrews 3 moses is the faithful servant of God but Jesus is the faithful Son of God
 - iv. So we see that his disciples said that Jesus was the prophet that moses spoke of but what did jesus say about himself
 - b. Jesus says he is the prophet
 - i. Over and over Jesus said he came representing another
 1. John 8:28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing on My own, **but speak exactly what the Father has taught Me.**
 2. John 12:49-50 I have not spoken on My own, but the Father who sent Me has commanded Me what to say and how to say it. And I know that His command leads to eternal life. So I speak exactly what the Father has told Me to say."
 3. John 17:18 you have sent me into the world . . .
 4. John 4:25-26 ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, **"I who speak to you am he."**
 5. But what does God say?

- c. God says Jesus is the Prophet
 - i. Mathew 17 (mark 9, Luke 9) the transfiguration
 - 1. Vs 5 "This is my beloved Son,^a with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him."