

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.¹⁶ For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.”

¹⁷ The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. ²⁰ But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.” **This is God’s Word.**

Dear Christian Friends,

As we consider this portion of scripture it’s important to know some of the background surrounding this prophecy of Moses. The Children of Israel had been wandering in the desert for almost 40 years. During that time, Moses was the most prominent person in their lives – he was their leader. Now they are headed for a land full of false prophets and bad influences and Moses, their leader, is soon going to be leaving them. I’m sure this caused them to worry. It probably brought some amount of uncertainty about the future, but Moses reassured them by telling them about the prophet God was going to send. As we consider the words of Moses, we want to answer the question, “**Who is this Promised Prophet?**” We will find out that, “**He is a prophet like Moses,**” and “**He would come to Establish a New Covenant.**”

I. “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers.” We know that the prophet Moses was talking about is Jesus and these words of Moses then compel us to make some comparisons between Moses and Jesus.

Moses was certainly a very unique prophet. He had a special relationship with God not shared with other prophets. He was the only prophet God spoke to face-to-face. God himself verified that for us when He revealed that to Miriam and Aaron, “**When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. ⁷ But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. ⁸ With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD.**” (Numbers 12:6-8). What a special experience that must have been for Moses to personally converse with God. Jesus, as God’s Son, certainly had a special relationship with the Father. A relationship beyond human understanding and yet a relationship the Bible describes in a number of different ways.

Moses had also been called by God for the special purpose of delivering God’s chosen people – the Children of Israel – from the slavery of the Egyptians and to lead them home to the promised land. God sent Jesus, His Son, to deliver all people from the slavery of sin and to lead them home to heaven through faith in him as their Savior.

Moses was the mediator between God and the Children of Israel. The Children of Israel requested that Moses be their mediator because God frightened them on Mt Sinai when they saw

the smoke and fire. Paul in his letter reminds us, **“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,”** (1 Timothy 2:5). Moses interceded for the people only while he was here on this earth. Jesus intercedes for us now in heaven and will continue to intercede for us for all eternity.

Moses points out that Jesus would be like him and come from among their brothers. In other words, Jesus was going to be born of Jewish heritage. He wasn't going to drop in like an angel out of the sky. He would be born as a human to fulfill the promises made to Abraham, Jacob, and Isaac – to be like them. Jesus would be like him in that he was tempted in every way just as we are and yet he was without sin. As God's special prophet he would deliver God's Word.

Moses delivered God's Word, especially the words given to him on Mt. Sinai. A lot of times these words were words of warning. Moses delivered not only the Ten Commandments but also all the Old Testament Laws for the people. All the rules and regulations they were to follow. Jesus delivered God's Word also. In the prophecy of Moses, **“The Lord said, I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command you.”** Jesus spoke with authority. The authority of God the Father who sent him. We see that authority in our Gospel lesson when Jesus was preaching and teaching in the synagogue. The people were amazed at his words because he not only spoke the Law but also about God's love in sending him as Savior.

We also see his authority as he cast the demon out of the man at this same time. It would seem that Satan and his demons gathered around Jesus at various times during his ministry and yet each time they showed up, they were defeated. The final defeat of Satan came on the cross as Jesus crushed the serpent's head by paying for our sins.

As we consider the lessons before us today, it is easy to see that Jesus was the Word made flesh to dwell among us. He himself was the Gospel message.

II. God sent Jesus to establish a new covenant with his people. The people of Israel had the Sinaitic Covenant which was conditional on them living according to God's rule but this was a covenant they broke many times. Jesus established an unconditional covenant – a covenant of grace. A covenant established for all believers. A covenant that focuses on him and what he has done for us. A covenant in which he keeps God's law perfectly as our substitute and where he pays the penalty needed to redeem us from sin and the devil.

The message Moses brought to the people pointed them to the need for a Savior and the promised Messiah who was to come. Jesus is the fulfillment of that prophecy who came to bring salvation to all believers.

We are a lot like the Children of Israel whom Moses was leading. At times we are rebellious and ignore God's Word. We don't come to church or we hear the word but fail to do what it says. Sometimes we ignore certain parts of God's Word that might interfere with our lifestyle. Sometimes we let the influences of the world guide us rather than God, just as the Children of Israel sometimes let the influences of the nations around them lead them astray. We too need a prophet like Moses. We too need a Savior from our sins.

Those Ten Commandments given on Mt. Sinai are still applicable to us today. They point out our sins and our need for a Savior and we thank God that he sent Jesus into this world to establish a new covenant for us – a covenant of forgiveness and grace.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life for us. He not only speaks God's message, he is God's message for us and for our salvation. He fulfilled all of God's promises for us and when he rose from the dead, he put the Yes! and Amen! behind everything God said.

As we continue in the season of Epiphany, today we see Jesus revealed as a prophet like Moses and so much more. We see Jesus as God's Son and our Savior from sin and the power of the devil.

Jesus has established a new covenant with us – a covenant of grace and mercy. A covenant that we don't deserve but a covenant God brings to us through the gift of faith. May we always marvel at our Savior's love for us. May we listen to him as he speaks to us through his Word. May God help us to be faithful to him just as he is faithful to us. Amen.