

Acts 7:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

Analysis

This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. Stephen quotes Deuteronomy 18:15, identifying this as messianic prophecy that Moses himself delivered—a prophet like Moses would come.

The comparison like unto me suggests continuity and escalation. Like Moses, Christ would be mediator, lawgiver, deliverer, and covenant-maker. Yet greater than Moses, as Hebrews 3:3 confirms. The phrase of your brethren emphasizes the Messiah's humanity—fully human, one of Israel's descendants, yet uniquely authorized by God.

The command him shall ye hear carries divine authority. This isn't suggestion but requirement. At Christ's transfiguration, the Father speaks identical words: 'This is my beloved Son; hear him' (Mark 9:7). Stephen indicts his accusers: you claim to honor Moses, yet reject the very Prophet Moses predicted.

Reformed hermeneutics sees Christ as the ultimate Prophet, revealing God's final word (Hebrews 1:1-2). The Old Testament points forward to Him; rejecting Christ means rejecting the testimony of Moses himself. This typological reading was standard in apostolic preaching.

Historical Context

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 was widely recognized in Second Temple Judaism as messianic prophecy. The Qumran community and various Jewish sects anticipated this coming Prophet. Peter quotes this same passage in Acts 3:22-23.

Stephen's strategy is brilliant: accused of blasphemy against Moses, he shows Moses himself testified to Christ. The Sanhedrin prided themselves as Moses' disciples (John 9:28), yet their rejection of Jesus violated Moses' explicit command. This speech precipitates Stephen's martyrdom—the accusation hits too close to home. Around 34-35 CE, the early church increasingly articulated Christ as fulfillment of Torah and Prophets.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Moses' prophecy of a coming Prophet establish Christ as fulfillment rather than replacement of the Law?
2. What does it mean that we must 'hear' Christ, and how does this differ from merely hearing about Him?
3. In what ways is Christ both like Moses and greater than Moses?
4. How does this passage challenge those who claim religious heritage while rejecting Christ's lordship?
5. What responsibility comes with recognizing Christ as the Prophet Moses foretold?

Interlinear Text

οὗτός ἐστιν τῶν Μωϋσῆς τῶν εἰπὼν τῶν υἱοῖς
This is which that Moses which said which unto the children
G3778 G2076 G3588 G3475 G3588 G2036 G3588 G5207

Ἰσραήλ Προφήτην ὑμῖν ἀναστήσει Κύριος τῶν θεὸς
of Israel A prophet unto you raise up the Lord which God
G2474 G4396 G5213 G450 G2962 G3588 G2316

ὑμῶν ἐκ τῶν ἀδελφῶν ὑμῶν ὡς ἐμέ αὐτοῦ
your of which brethren your like unto me him
G5216 G1537 G3588 G80 G5216 G5613 G1691 G846

ἀκούσεσθε

shall ye hear

G191

Additional Cross-References

John 18:37 (Parallel theme): Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Acts 7:38 (Parallel theme): This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Mark 9:7 (Parallel theme): And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

Luke 9:35 (Parallel theme): And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.