

Deuteronomy 18:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

Analysis

The Prophet to come: 'The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.' This promises a prophet 'like Moses'—lawgiver, mediator, deliverer. The Hebrew uses singular 'Prophet' (נָבִיא, navi), suggesting ultimate fulfillment in one person, though intermediate prophets also came. The command 'unto him ye shall hearken' establishes this Prophet's authority. Deuteronomy's close compares this Prophet to Moses himself—highest possible commendation. This Messianic prophecy finds fulfillment in Christ, the ultimate Prophet revealing God's word, mediating new covenant, and delivering from sin.

Historical Context

Israel asked for a mediator rather than God speaking directly (v.16, referencing Exodus 20:18-21). God granted this, promising prophetic succession culminating in the Prophet. Joshua, Samuel, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others partially fulfilled this, but none equaled Moses until Christ. Peter applies this prophecy to Jesus (Acts 3:22-23), as does Stephen (Acts 7:37). Hebrews 3:1-6 shows Jesus's superiority to Moses: Moses was faithful servant, Christ is faithful Son. Rejecting this Prophet brings judgment (Acts 3:23). Christ fulfills law-giving (Sermon on Mount), mediation (High Priest), and deliverance (salvation from sin).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus fulfill the role of 'Prophet like Moses' in ways that surpass all other prophets?
2. What does the command to 'hearken unto him' mean for how we receive and respond to Christ's words?
3. How does Moses's unique role (lawgiver, mediator, deliverer) anticipate the comprehensive work of Christ?

Interlinear Text

נָבִיא	מִקְרֹבֶיךָ	מֵאַחֶיךָ	כָּמֹנִי	יְקֹוֹם
unto thee a Prophet	from the midst	of thee of thy brethren	H3644	will raise up
H5030	H7130	H251		H6965
לְךָ	יְהוָה ה'	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	אֵלַי	תִּשְׁמָעוּן:
H0	The LORD	thy God	H413	like unto me unto him ye shall hearken
	H3068	H430		H8085

Additional Cross-References

Acts 7:37 (Resurrection): 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.

John 1:45 (Prophecy): Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Matthew 17:5 (Parallel theme): While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

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

1 Timothy 2:5 (References God): For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

John 6:29 (References God): Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

1 John 3:23 (Parallel theme): And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

Luke 24:19 (Prophecy): And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

John 1:25 (Prophecy): And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

Deuteronomy 34:10 (Prophecy): And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,