



Who is the prophet in Deuteronomy and who is the counselor/helper/advocate?

In Deuteronomy 18:15-18, Moses says:

“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen; to him you shall listen. *This is* in accordance with everything that you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Do not let me hear the voice of the Lord my God again, and do not let me see this great fire anymore, or I will die!’ And the Lord said to me, ‘They have spoken well. I will raise up for them a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them everything that I command him.”

Who is this prophet? Let’s look at a few things in that passage. Notice that Moses says this prophet will be “like him” and will be from “fellow countrymen.” The Israelites referred to themselves as countrymen. For example, in Deuteronomy 17:15 it says:

“You shall in fact appoint a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses. *One* from among your countrymen you shall appoint as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves, *anyone* who is not your countryman.”

Here Moses distinguishes between an Israelite (Countryman) and a person from a foreign nation (not your countryman). We therefore know this prophet will be an Israelite who God will speak through.

God also said the blessing would come through Isaac, not Ishmael (Genesis 17:18-21 and Genesis 21:12):

Genesis 17:18-21

“And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You!” But God said, “No, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and make him fruitful and multiply him exceedingly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. But I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.”

Genesis 21:12

“do not be distressed because of the boy and your slave woman; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.”

So we know that Isaac is the line of Abraham that will bless the world not Ishmael.

Who is the person that has fulfilled this? Jesus!

Jesus came as a Jew so he qualifies as a “fellow countryman.” Matthew 1:2 records Jesus as a descendent of Isaac. Jesus spoke the words of God (John 8:28) with the authority of God (John 12:49). Like Moses Jesus performed the duties of prophet, priest (Heb. 7-10) and leader over man (Rev. 19:20). Jesus and Moses had many other parallels. Peter summarized this as:

Acts 3:19-23

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the ^[a]Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things, about which God spoke by the mouths of His holy prophets

from ancient times. Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your countrymen; to Him you shall listen regarding everything He says to you. And it shall be that every soul that does not listen to that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’”

And Jesus reminded the people that Moses wrote about him:

“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.” (John 5:46)

Deuteronomy 34:10 was written by Joshua after Moses death and said there has been no prophet like Moses since Moses death until Joshua wrote this. Moses performed miracles (signs and wonders) and spoke to God face to face. Later, Jesus also did signs and wonders and was himself God in the flesh (John 1:1, John 1:14, Philippians 2:5-10). God the Father spoke to the people affirming Jesus was the Son of God (Matthew 3:17; Matthew 17:1-8).

Psalms 45:3-5 says the Messiah would come with a sword and sit on David’s throne forever. Jesus is the fulfillment

of this as shown in Hebrews 1:8-9 and Jesus claimed to be this Messiah in John 4:26; John 8:58; John 10:30 and will reign until all his enemies are under his feet (Ps. 110:1; Matthew. 22:44; 1 Corinthians 15:25) and is coming in judgement with a sword (Revelation 19:11-16).

Who is the counselor/helper/advocate?

Finally, starting in John 13, Jesus begins to teach the disciples. In John 14:16 Jesus says the Father will send “another Counselor” after his death. We find out is the Holy Spirit in John 14:26 which comes to the disciples (John 14:16) to testify about Jesus (John 15:26). When Jesus says “you” he is talking directly to the disciples.

John 14:16

I will ask the Father, and He will give you[the disciples] another Helper, so that He may be with you [the disciples] forever; *the Helper* is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know *Him*; but you[the disciples] know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.

John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you [the disciples] all things,

and remind you [the disciples] of all that I said to you[the disciples].

John 15:26

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you[the disciples] from the Father, *namely*, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, He will testify about Me,...”

John 16:14

“He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose *it* to you[the disciples].”

This was important because it was the Holy Spirit that was going to guide the disciples to write Scripture for the New Testament. The Holy Sprit would be given to them remembrance of all the Jesus taught them so they could tell others and write it down.

The promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost:

Acts 1:4-5

“Gathering them together, He commanded them[the disciples] not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” *He said*, “you[the

disciples] heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you[the disciples] will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 1:8

“but you[the Disciples] will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you[the disciples]; and you[the disciples] shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.”

When they gathered in the room there was around 120 of them. This is what is referred to as “they” in the next verses:

Acts 1:15

“At this time Peter stood up among the brothers *and sisters* (a group of about 120 people was there together), and said...”

Acts 2:1-4

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they[approximately 120] were all together in one place. And suddenly a noise like a violent rushing wind

came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they[the 120] were sitting. And tongues *that looked* like fire appeared to them, distributing themselves, and *a tongue* rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different tongues, as the Spirit was giving them *the ability* to speak out.”

Acts 2:17 – here Peter recites Joel 2:28-32 which says:

“And it shall be in the last days,’ God says,
‘That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind;
And your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
And your young men will see visions,
And your old men will have dreams;”

So now the Holy Spirit is going out to everyone. The word “you” is everyone listening and from now on who hears and responds to the gospel.

Acts 2:38-39

Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you[everyone] be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for[because of] the forgiveness of your [[everyone’s] sins; and you[everyone] will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you[[everyone] and your

children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

Listen to the words of Peter:

2 Peter 1:20-21

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Paul received the Holy Spirit and was sent by the risen Jesus to proclaim

But the Lord said to him[Anaias], “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

Peter confirmed that Paul was writing Scripture:

2 Pet. 3:16

“... as also in all *his*[*Paul's*] letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction”

Paul writes:

1 Cor. 14:37

“ If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment.”

1 Thess. 2:13)

“For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.”

2 Tim. 3:16-17:

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Holy Spirit ensured that the New testament writers perfectly recorded the words of God and provided us with all we need to know to be saved. The Bible is our final authority because the words are the only things that is

God-breathed and infallible. We test everything to
Scripture because Scripture is our final rule of faith.