

HWMR - CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY OF DEUTORONOMY, Week 7

Christ—the True Prophet Typified by Moses

Scripture Reading: Deut. 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-23

Deuteronomy 18:15	A Prophet will Jehovah your God raise up for you from your midst, from among your brothers, like me; you shall listen to Him.
Deuteronomy 18:16	This is according to all that you asked of Jehovah your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear any more of the voice of Jehovah my God, and let me not see this great fire any longer, lest I die.
Deuteronomy 18:17	And Jehovah said to me, They have done well in what they have spoken.
Deuteronomy 18:18	A Prophet will I raise up for them from the midst of their brothers like you; and I will put My words in His mouth, and He will speak to them all that I command Him.
Deuteronomy 18:19	And the man who will not listen to My words which He will speak in My name, I Myself will require it from him.
Acts 3:22	Moses said, “A Prophet will the Lord your God raise up unto you from your brothers, like me; Him shall you hear in whatever things He speaks to you. ”
Acts 3:23	And it shall be that every soul who does not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.”

Day 1

I. Prophets are **God’s spokesmen**—Deut. 18:15; Amos 3:7; Isa. 6:1-8:

- A. The function of the prophets is to **speak for God**—1 Cor. 14:31; 2 Tim. 4:2.
- B. According to the Bible, the main function of a prophet is not to predict things that are coming but to **speak for God** and to **speak forth God by God’s revelation**—Amos 3:7; Exo. 4:10-16.
- C. God, who is a **speaking God**, spoke in the Old Testament to people in many portions and in many ways in the prophets—Heb. 1:1:
 1. God is hidden, but **through the speaking of the prophets**, God Himself and His intention are **made known**—Isa. 45:15, 19; 1:1-2a; 6:1-8.
 2. Prophets receive **God’s revelation** directly and are **borne by the Spirit of God** to speak for God and speak forth God—2 Pet. 1:20-21:
 - a. **No prophecy** was ever borne by the will of man—v. 21.
 - b. Man’s **will, desire, and wish**, with his **thought and exposition**, were **not the source** from which any prophecy came.
 - c. The **source was God**, by whose **Holy Spirit men were borne**, as a ship is borne by the wind, to speak out the will, desire, and wish of God.
 - d. **No prophecy** of Scripture is of the **prophet’s or the writer’s exposition**, for no prophecy was ever borne, or carried along, by the will of man; rather, **men spoke from God while being borne by the Spirit**—vv. 20-21.
- D. A **false prophet** is one who **speaks a word presumptuously** in God’s name, which God did not command him to speak—Deut. 18:20-22.

We can summarize the **characteristic and teaching of the false prophets** with the following points. **First**, the characteristic of the false prophets is that **they are actuated by the spirit of deception** (1 John 4:6; Jer. 14:14; 23:25; 27:10, 14; Ezek. 13:8); that is, their prophecies are filled primarily with lies. Footnote 4 on 1 John 4:6 says, “The spirit of deception is Satan, the evil spirit, the spirit of falsehood (Eph. 2:2).” Satan is the father of lies, and there is a spirit of deception operating on the earth today. This is not just lawlessness but also deception. **This kind of spirit abounds on the Internet. Second**, they **promise people vain and fleeting prosperity and pleasure** (Jer. 6:14; 14:13, 15-16; 23:17, 21; 27:9; 28:16; Ezek. 13:19). There is a promise of prosperity and a good time in their speaking; however, these are vain and fleeting promises. **Third**, they are **greedy** (Jer. 6:13; Micah 3:11). Recall how Balaam was a prophet for hire; this kind of seeking for personal gain abounds throughout today’s Christendom. They set their mind on earthly things to satisfy base wants, and their god is their stomach (Phil. 3:19).

Fourth, their teachings are somewhat religious on the surface **but actually help people to do evil** (Jer. 5:31; 23:14, 27, 32; Ezek. 13:22). **Fifth**, we should discern prophets not by their preaching or the fact that they can perform signs and wonders but **by checking the fruit of their work** (Matt. 7:16-20). **Sixth**, false prophets have received some kind of **special inspiration to do their work**; however, **that inspiration is not the Holy Spirit**. The source of the words is darkness and deception. Although their words may sound eloquent or even seductive, they are not speaking the words of God. **Seventh**, they are **wolves dressed in sheep’s clothing** (v. 15). They may appear to be like sheep, seeming to be very tame or appearing similar to real prophets; however, **underlying them are evil spirits**. Their outward appearance is false, and what they speak is also not their own. These ones may be considered as modernists, which is to say that they are actually atheists. Their behavior is to lead people astray from the truth, away from the reality which is God in Christ as the Spirit. They speak lies, they do not believe in the Bible, they seek glory from men, and their teachings are covered by a religious cloak. The result of their teachings will actually cause people to perish.

(Ministry of the Word, Vol. 24, No.1, pp. 219-220)

Day 2

II. Moses was a prophet, and **as a prophet, he typifies Christ**—v. 15:

- A. In his forty years of leading the children of Israel, Moses **continually spoke to them for God**; especially in Deuteronomy, Moses **repeatedly spoke God's words to the children of Israel**—1:1, 9-11, 18; 4:1-2; 5:11; 6:1-9.
- B. Moses, as the spokesman of God, was like an aged, **loving father speaking to his children with much love and concern**—30:1-14:
 - 1. Although it was Moses who spoke, **he did not speak his own words; he spoke God's words**—32:1-47.
 - 2. He **spoke for God, spoke forth God, and spoke God into the children of Israel**—11:8-25.
- C. Moses was a person not only **soaked and saturated** with the **thought of God** but also **constituted** with the **speaking God Himself**; therefore, the word that proceeded out of his mouth was the **word of God spoken through this one spokesman**—Exo. 34:29-35; Num. 12:6-8:
 - 1. For forty years Moses served as **God's spokesman, speaking for God, speaking forth God**, and predicting; every word that he spoke became God's word—Deut. 10:12-22.
 - 2. He predicted that the children of Israel would forsake God and be cast by God into all the nations but that when they would repent and turn to God, He would gather them from the nations—29:25-28; 30:1-3.
 - 3. As such a **prophet**, Moses is a **type of Christ**—Acts 3:22-23.
 - 4. Moses **spoke to the children of Israel all that God had commanded him to speak**; likewise, the Lord Jesus spoke all that the Father commanded Him to speak—John 12:49-50.

Day 3

III. The Old Testament prophet Moses prophesied, saying, **"A Prophet will Jehovah your God raise up for you from your midst, from among your brothers, like me; you shall listen to Him"**—Deut. 18:15:

- A. Jehovah would **put His words in the mouth of the Prophet**, who would speak all that God commanded Him—v. 18b.
- B. The Prophet raised up by God would be according to all that the children of Israel asked of Jehovah their God at Horeb—vv. 16-17:
 - 1. They had told Moses that they **could not bear to hear God's voice**—5:22-28; Exo. 20:18-19.
 - 2. Because they wanted a prophet, Moses promised that God would fulfill their desire for a **prophet**.
- C. **Moses prophesied** that Jehovah would **raise up a Prophet** from their midst, from among their brothers—Deut. 18:15, 18a:
 - 1. This indicates that God would raise up this Prophet **through the incarnation of Christ to speak the word of God**—John 1:14; 3:34; 7:16-17; Heb. 1:2a.
 - 2. From the midst of their brothers (Deut. 18:18a) indicates that **Christ as the coming Prophet would be human as well as divine**—John 1:1, 14; Rom. 8:3:
 - a. If Christ were merely God, He could not have been raised up from among the Israelites—Luke 1:31, 35.
 - b. **As God, Christ could not be from among the Jews as a brother**, but as the **incarnated One**, the One who put on human nature and was a Jew, **Christ was from among His brothers**.
 - c. As the incarnated God, **Christ put on human nature** and became a Jew; thus, He is the Prophet raised up "from your midst," as prophesied by Moses—Deut. 18:15, 18.
 - 3. Acts 3:22-23 applies Deuteronomy 18:15-19 to Christ, who is God incarnated to be a man, indicating that **Christ is the Prophet promised by God to His people, the children of Israel**.

IV. In His first coming, **Christ ministered as the Prophet raised up by God**—Acts 3:22-23; 7:37:

- A. Through **incarnation** **Christ became the Prophet to speak the word of God**—John 3:34.
- B. **Christ** is the **Word of God** and the **speaking of God**—1:1; Rev. 19:13; Heb. 1:2a:
 - 1. When Christ was on the earth speaking for God and teaching people, His teaching was not His own but was **according to what the Father had taught Him**—John 7:16; 8:28b.
 - 2. He did not speak from Himself; **as the Father spoke to Him, so He spoke**—12:49-50.
 - 3. As **God's Prophet**, Christ **spoke for God, spoke forth God, and revealed** God to the disciples—Matt. 11:27.
- C. During His earthly ministry, Christ also **prophesied, predicted, by declaring** the things that are coming—John 16:12-13; Matt. 24:2—25:46.
- D. Today **Christ as the Prophet is in us still speaking for God to reveal God and speaking God into people**—Rom. 8:10; 2 Cor. 13:5; Col. 1:27.

Day 4

V. As a prophet typifying Christ as the true Prophet, Moses might have spoken something of his own feeling, but even **this became the word of God**; his speaking in Deuteronomy was like Paul's speaking in 1 Corinthians 7:

- A. Because Paul was a man **constituted with God**, his opinion **became a part of God's word** as the divine revelation in the New Testament:
 - 1. In his speaking, Paul was **one with God**; therefore, **what he spoke was God's speaking**—6:17; 7:25.
 - 2. The principle is the same with Moses' speaking in Deuteronomy.

- B. **First Corinthians 7** conveys the spirit of a person who **loves the Lord**, who **cares for the Lord's interests on earth**, who is **absolutely for the Lord** and **one with the Lord**, and who in every respect is **obedient, submissive, and satisfied with God** and the circumstances arranged by Him.

Day 5 & Day 6

- C. Because Paul was **one with the Lord**, when he spoke, the **Lord spoke with him**; thus, in 1 Corinthians 7 we have an example of the New Testament principle of incarnation—vv. 10, 12, 25, 40:
1. The **principle of incarnation** is that God enters into man and **mingles** Himself with man to make man one with Himself; thus, God is in man, and man is in God—John 15:4-5.
 2. In the New Testament the **Lord becomes one with His apostles**, and they become one with Him and **speak together with Him**; thus, **His word becomes their word**, and **whatever they utter is His word**—1 Cor. 2:12-13.
 3. The principle in 1 Corinthians 7:10 is the same as that in Galatians 2:20, the **principle of incarnation—two persons living as one person**.
 4. In 1 Corinthians 7:25 and 40 we see the highest spirituality—the **spirituality of a person** who is so **one with the Lord and permeated with Him that even his opinion expresses the Lord's mind**.
 5. If we are **saturated with the Spirit**, what we express will be our thought, but it will also be **something of the Lord because we are one with Him**; this is the experience of **Christ as the Prophet living in us to speak for God and to speak forth God**—6:17.

It is easy to say that everyone must speak the word of God, **but it is not easy to do this**. Therefore, in this training we have three lines: (1) **The Full Knowledge of the Word of God**, (2) **Everyone Speaking the Word of God**, and (3) **Meeting to Speak the Word of God**. To understand the Word of God you must **first have some deposit within you**. Today you may understand the Word of God only a little, but **tomorrow you will understand a little more. One year later, and then two years later, you will understand still more**. After a **long time of study** to understand the Word of God, you will have some deposit within you. It is like going to school. You cannot begin school today and then graduate next week. You must first spend six years of study in order to have the elementary-school education gradually deposited into you. Then you must study in junior high, high school, college, and graduate school. You must not only have the will to study from elementary school to graduate school, but you must also spend eighteen years in order to have an **adequate deposit within you**. Then, because you already have something deposited within you, you will be able to meet the situation.

It is the same with the Word of the Lord. If we **read it often, even daily**, and also **pray-read it often**, month after month and year after year, we will have an **accumulation of the Word within us**. I hope that when you speak God's word to others, you will not just tell them that the Word of God is very good and that the word in your church is the richest of all. I hope that you will not merely tell people that previously you were not able to **speak**, but **now you are able**; that formerly you were **dumb**, but **now you open your mouth**; that previously you had **no boldness**, but **now you have boldness**; or that previously you had **no eloquence**, but **now you have eloquence**. You may speak like this for a long time, yet you are still only "introducing the ball"; you have not yet "played the ball." People might listen to you the first time, but the second time they will not be happy to listen. You must have the ball in your hand, and you must also know how to play the ball. Furthermore, you must play the ball in the way of an exhibition that others can see.

(Everyone Speaking the Word of God, chapter 2, section 1)

A Warning Concerning the False Prophets

Now as an appendix, I would like to also give a warning concerning the speaking of the **false prophets** and **how we can discern their lies**. Brother Nee gives us a basis for identifying false prophets and their teachings:

If we know what kind of persons the false prophets are, we will know how to identify them. Our Lord spoke of them (Matt. 24:24), Paul spoke of them (Acts 20:29-30; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Tim. 3), Peter spoke of them (2 Pet. 2:1), John spoke of them (1 John 2:4), and Jude also spoke of them. **The characteristic of the false prophets is to tell lies!** Please read Jeremiah 14:14; 23:25; 27:10, 14; Ezekiel 13:8. False prophets deviate from the Bible and reject it (Jer. 5:13; 23:16, 26, 30; 29:9; Ezek. 13:3, 6, 17). **They promise people vain and fleeting prosperity and pleasure** (Jer. 6:14; Ezek. 13:19; Jer. 14:13, 15-16; 23:17, 21; 27:9; 28:16). **They are greedy** (Jer. 6:3; Micah 3:11). **The message that they preach** is somewhat religious on the surface, but it **actually helps people to do evil** (Jer. 5:31; 23:14, 27, 32; Ezek. 13:22). Today the false prophets in the church are those who call themselves "**modernist**"; actually they are **atheists**. All their behavior is exactly the same as that of the false prophets spoken of in the Bible. They speak lies. **They do not believe in the Bible**. They tell people to reform themselves, and they give people empty hopes. They are greedy for glory from man. Their doctrines are only covered with a religious cloak but will cause people to perish. The Bible commands us to love our enemies, but regarding those who preach heresy, there are also some instructions (2 John 10; Jude 3). May we be faithful.

(The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, vol. 7, p. 1053)

THE CITY

But this temple of God needs enlargement. How can it be enlarged? It is enlarged by Christ as the authority of God. We not only need Christ as our enjoyment but also **Christ as the authority of God**. This is exceedingly real. When you and I enjoy Christ together in the way that we have shown, the reality of the authority of Christ is among us. In such an enjoyment and out of such an enjoyment, we **will be very submissive to God and to one another**. We will be full of submission. Can you believe that after enjoying Christ in such a way we could quarrel with each other? Can you believe that in such an enjoyment we could hate one another? It is impossible. Is it possible for us to be formed as an army to fight the enemy and yet within the army to be fighting with each other? It is possible if this is not an army. If we are a group of bandits or gangsters, it is possible. **Without submission there is no army**. When we enjoy Christ to such an extent, every one of us will be submissive to each other. We cannot do otherwise. True love is in submission. When we submit one to another, we are really loving one another. True love does not exist in my taste, my choice, or my desire but in my submission. If there is submission among us, the authority of Christ is among us. It is the authority of Christ that enlarges the habitation of God, the temple of God.

What is the enlargement of the temple of God? It is the city of God. By the authority of Christ the church is not only God's home but also **His city**. Not only is the presence of God there but also the **kingdom of God** and the **authority of God**. When people come in, they will sense God's presence, and they will also sense God's authority. They will say that this is not only the house of God but the kingdom of God. Then there will be the city with the temple. **The city and the temple are where there is a group of people who experience and enjoy Christ to such an extent that they are mingled and blended with Him in every way**. When they come together, they enjoy Christ before God and with God. Everything with them is Christ. If we are in such a situation, praise the Lord, we have the house of God and we have the city of God. We are in God's home, and we are in God's kingdom. All who come into our midst will sense the presence of God as well as the authority of God. They will say, "God is not only dwelling here, but God is ruling here."

Brothers and sisters, this is what God is seeking today. **He is looking for such a situation on this earth, in the very place where you are living**. If you are living in Louisville, God is seeking this in Louisville. If you are living in Sacramento, God is seeking this very reality in Sacramento. **Wherever we are living, God is seeking His house and His kingdom, His temple and His city, among us**. But we must experience Christ. Starting with the passover lamb and passing through so many experiences, we must come together with the saints into the land, the all-inclusive Christ. Then we must labor diligently on the land to produce the abundant riches of Christ. We must become "Christ Incorporated," the group of Christians who produce Christ, enjoy Christ, share Christ, and offer Christ to God in worship. **Everything with us must be Christ**. This is the real expression of the Body of Christ. Here is the house of God and the kingdom of God. If we have such a reality, we have the land, we have the temple, and we have the city.

This is what God is seeking today. May we be faithful to Him and learn by His grace how to enjoy Christ, how to experience Christ, and how to apply Christ to our daily lives. **Then we will continually grow in our experience and enjoyment of Him until that time when with the saints we enter the good land, labor on it, and the temple and the city come into being**.

(The All-Inclusive Christ, chapter 16, section 3)