

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.”** (NIV 84)

Theme: Listen to God’s Promised Prophet

1. He is similar to Moses
2. He is greater than Moses

Perhaps you had some health problems lately so you visited the doctor. He told you to go on a diet and to start exercising otherwise your health is going to get worse—and you could possibly die of a heart attack or a stroke. But you love food and you don’t like to exercise so you continue with your life as normal, and hope it doesn’t come back to bite you. It sounds crazy, but many people do it everyday. They fail to listen to the advice of their doctors and take a gamble on their life. As dangerous as it is not to follow the advice of a doctor, it is much more dangerous not to follow the Words of Jesus. Failing to do so doesn’t involve your physical life as much as your spiritual and eternal life. For today we see that Jesus is God’s Promised Prophet. He is similar to Moses, but he is greater than Moses.

Before Moses was ever born, God chose him to lead his people out of Egypt. And when his life was threatened as a young boy, God caused Pharaoh’s daughter to find him and adopt him. He was raised by his mother and learned about God. He was then brought up as an Egyptian and received the best education a man could have. When he was about 80 years old God, out of the burning bush, called him to be a leader of his people. He enabled him to perform miracles to prove

that he was sent by God. After the 10 plagues, including the killing of the first born, Pharaoh allowed the Israelites to go. But he soon changed his mind and raced after them, until the Israelites passed through the Red Sea on dry ground but when the Egyptians tried to go across the water came crashing onto them killing the whole army. A few months later they found themselves encamped on the base of Mount Sinai. There they would stay for about a year.

And during that time they saw some amazing sights. One morning thunder and lightening was surrounding the top of the mountain along with smoke. Large trumpet blasts were so loud it made the people tremble. All of this happened because God was on top of the mountain. And he allowed Moses to go and talk to him. In fact, that first time, Moses talked to God for 40 straight days. It was then that God gave Moses all the laws to govern his people as a nation, a church, and as humans. Moses would spend much of his time during the next year on top of the mountain talking to God. And when he came down his face was so radiant he had to cover it up. He was glowing so much from just talking to God that the people couldn’t stand to look at him.

But that wasn’t the only thing the Israelites couldn’t stand. After awhile they couldn’t even stand to hear God’s voice any more. He was too great, and they were too great of sinners. They realized that if this continued the weight of the Lord’s voice would be too much for them to handle. So they each said to Moses, **Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.** God knew that they were right. They would die if they kept on hearing his voice. So in his love and compassion, God decided to send them a mediator—one who would serve as a go-between for the people and God. And this mediator would be a prophet. God told Moses, **I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.** God’s promise was that he was going to send his people a prophet so that they wouldn’t have to listen to his voice and die.

This prophecy is fulfilled by all the prophets that followed Moses. From Isaiah to Jeremiah, from Elijah to Elisha, from Hosea to Malachi—all the prophets are a partial fulfillment. But when God

made this promise, he had one prophet specifically in mind. Christ. He was anointed as the Lord's Servant at his baptism. He was called the prophet by many who heard him speak. Jesus spoke the Word unlike anyone else. He spoke with such authority, people knew he wasn't any normal prophet, he was The Prophet. John tells us in chapter 7, **When they heard these words (of Jesus), some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet."** But they didn't understand that the Prophet and the Messiah would be the same person. So both Peter and Stephen point this out in the book of Acts. The one the Jews killed was the Promised Prophet. They killed not only The Prophet, but also the promised Messiah.

Moses said that this prophet would be, **like Me**. And there are many similarities between Moses and Jesus. God also said that this prophet will be **from among your brothers**. And as we learn from the genealogies of Matthew and Luke, Jesus was a descendent of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—he was a Jew. Both spoke God's Word with authority. God told Moses what he was to say. And Jesus spoke God's Word because he is God. And both also spoke directly to God. Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament. The first four books of the New Testament are filled with Jesus' words. Moses performed many miracles for the Israelites to prove he was sent by God. And in order to prove that Jesus is God he performed so many miracles we couldn't possibly number them all.

Moses was sent to save God's people from the oppression of the Egyptians and into the promised land of Canaan. Jesus was sent to save God's people from sin, death, and the devil, while leading us to the promised land of Heaven. Moses was a mediator between God and man. He spoke to God for the people, and to the people for God. Paul has this to say about Jesus in 1 Timothy, **there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**. As we can see, Jesus certainly is The Prophet. For he is like Moses.

As great as Moses was, the people of Israel failed to listen to him. They rebelled against Moses time and time again. Once Korah started a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. He and all his followers ended up being swallowed by the earth. Many others wanted to go back to Egypt, for they thought they had it better as slaves than under Moses. Moses gave the Israelites the 10 commandments, and numerous other

laws. Yet, the Israelites constantly went against God's commands he gave through

Like Moses, many people fail to follow the Words of Christ—even though God tells us, **it is to him you shall listen**. Jesus says, **I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one can come to the Father except through me**. And yet, people reject Jesus as their Savior. They trust in other gods to save them, or perhaps in their own works and effort. They don't believe him when he says that he is equal with the Father. They make him into something less than God. Of course, its not just unbelievers who fail to listen to Jesus; at times, we, as believers, may fail to listen to Jesus. **Love your neighbor as yourself, pray for those who persecute you**, and many other words from Jesus as simple ignored. People believe only what they want to believe about Jesus. They only follow the part of his Word that they agree with. If it goes against their reason or way of life, they will simply ignore it.

But when we do listen to Jesus, we see who he is. And we see all the great things he has done for us. We see that he is the promised Savior. He is the fulfillment of numerous Old Testament prophecies. He spoke with authority. He was sent by God. He is God's promised Prophet. We see that he is our Savior, who gave up his life on the cross. He suffered through the pain and agony of hell for us. And promises that through his resurrection, we too will rise from the dead and live with him in heaven forever.

And yet, like listening to doctors many people fail to listen to Christ. This is one of the ways Jesus was like Moses. But Jesus wasn't just like Moses, he was greater than Moses.

Moses was the one who brought the Old Covenant to the people of Israel. This covenant, or agreement, was given at Mount Sinai. It said, if you obey these commandments God will bless you. Sounds easy enough. But, by the count of some scholars, there were over 600 different laws to follow. Such laws like, **Love the Lord your God and serve him only, and do not misuse the name of the Lord your God**. These laws are impossible for anyone to follow any day. Let alone their whole lives. And there was a second part to that covenant. If you didn't obey God you would be punished. So the Old Covenant was one that put a great burden on God's people.

But Jesus brought a new covenant. The Old Covenant said you must obey God or be punished. But the New Covenant says, Christ obeyed God perfectly for you, so you won't be punished. In the New Covenant Jesus has done everything for us through his perfect life and innocent suffering and death. We don't have to do anything—in fact we can't do anything in this New Covenant. The Old Covenant condemns. But the New Covenant saves. And this New Covenant, replaces the Old one. The writer to the Hebrews explains what this means for us, **By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.** Because Christ, as the author of the New Covenant, got rid of the Old Covenant, he is far greater than Moses.

But he is far greater for more reasons. Jesus was the one Moses prophesied about. Everything that Moses wrote about really pointed to Christ. Jesus is The Prophet, while Moses is just a prophet. Moses gave the law, and Jesus fulfilled it. Jesus, as the Angel of the Lord, was the one who called Moses out of the burning bush. So Jesus is eternal and God. Moses had to learn what to say from God. Jesus didn't—he is God, he knew the words already. Moses had to get his power to do miracles through God. Jesus had the power already, for he is God.

Through Jesus we have a full revelation of God's grace. Moses only gave us a small picture. We only get bits and pieces of who the Savior would be through Moses. We learn that Jesus will destroy the devil. That he could come from line of the Jews. That he would speak the Words of God. But through Christ we know who that Messiah is. We know what he did. And how he saved us through his life, death, and resurrection. In our 2nd lesson for today we read that Jesus is greater than Moses. The Writer to the Hebrews says, **Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself...Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house.** Jesus is greater than Moses, because Jesus has brought us to faith. Through his Word he gave us faith to believe in him as our one and only Savior.

And because Jesus is greater than Moses, we always strive to listen to Jesus. Not only listening to Jesus, but also saying what he says. As we read in verse 20, **the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.** We strive to spread the Word of Christ in its truth and purity. Yet there are some who preach God's word presumptuously. Instead of preaching about Christ, they talk about themselves. They build themselves up at the expense of God's word. Or they only preach what they want to preach about. They scratch people's ears. And they end up butchering the Word just to make people happy.

Others don't preach for God at all. Instead they preach for false gods. Whether it be Allah, or Buddha, or the false gods of the Jews, Mormons, or Jehovah Witnesses. Those who preach for false gods don't listen to The Prophet. They listen to themselves and their wants. God hates these false prophets. But he doesn't command us to put them to death, like he commanded the Israelites. Instead, today, he tells us to **stay away from them**, as we read in Romans 16. He tells us in Titus to **keep away** from those who preach contrary to his Word. When we listen to false prophets and refuse to stay away from those who teach contrary to God's word, we fail to listen to The Prophet.

Why do we make such a big deal out of this? Because whoever does not listen to Jesus—specifically that he is the world's one and only Savior, will not be saved. God says in verse 20, **whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.** God requires that we listen to Jesus. And if we don't, we will suffer forever. But those who do listen—those who believe that Jesus is our one and only Savior will be saved. They will be given the gift of eternal life in heaven. And this not because they have earned or deserved it. But purely by God's grace.

And we preach all of God's Word so that no one misses the greatness of Christ. We want everyone to see that Jesus is God's Promised Prophet. That he is the Savior that he promised back in the Garden of Eden. For Jesus speaks the words of God. He is our Mediator. He fulfilled the Old Covenant and brought us the New Covenant. He is greater than Moses. For Moses Condemns, but Jesus saves.

You may or may not listen to your doctor and follow his advice when he tells you what to do. And those that do so are putting their life at risk. But those who fail to listen to God's Promised Prophet are not just going to die physically, they are going to die eternally. Those who do listen to their doctor may get better health-wise. And those that do listen to and believe Jesus Christ will certainly get better. For when they pass on from this life, they will be given eternal life. Amen.