



Deuteronomy 18

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Deuteronomy 18.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

INTRODUCTION: this is a continuation of the previous chapter; Israel is soon to cross over the River Jordan and enter into the Promised Land. The primary focus of all the following chapters is upon Moses re-telling to the new generation about to cross the River Jordan all the covenant laws the LORD originally gave to Israel at Mount Sinai so that the new generation would renew the covenant with the LORD before they enter the Promised Land. The final chapter finishes with the LORD burying Moses and Joshua being ready to lead Israel over the River Jordan and into the Promised Land (see also the introduction to chapter one).

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

DEUTERONOMY 18 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

- **Deuteronomy 18:1-22** “The Levitical priests, all the tribe of Levi, shall have no portion or inheritance with Israel. They shall eat the LORD’s food offerings as their inheritance.² They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them.³ And this shall be the priests’ due from the people, from those offering a sacrifice, whether an ox or a sheep: they shall give to the priest the shoulder and the two cheeks and the stomach.⁴ The firstfruits of your grain, of your wine and of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep, you shall give him.⁵ For the LORD your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons for all time.⁶ “And if a Levite comes from any of your towns out of all Israel, where he lives—and he may come when he desires—to the place that the LORD will choose,⁷ and ministers in the name of the LORD his God, like all his fellow Levites who stand to minister there before the LORD,⁸ then he may have equal portions to eat, besides what he receives from the sale of his patrimony.⁹ “When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations.¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer¹¹ or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,¹² for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.¹³ You shall be blameless before the LORD your God,¹⁴ for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do this.¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.²⁰ But 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.’²¹ And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?’—²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

The Levitical priests

The LORD has chosen Levi and his sons out of all Israel's tribes to minister in the name of the LORD for all time. They had no portion or inheritance with Israel because they had no inheritance among their brothers, because the LORD was their inheritance, as he had promised them. They were to eat the LORD'S food offerings as their inheritance (these were the burnt offerings the people offered to the LORD).

The Levitical priests due from the people

The people were to give the Levites from their sacrifice offering of an ox or a sheep the shoulder, the two cheeks, the stomach, the first-fruits of their grain, their wine, their oil and the first fleece of their sheep. If a Levite lives in any of the towns in all Israel (away from the place the LORD chose), he could go whenever he desired to the place that the LORD had chosen and minister like all his fellow Levites who minister there before the LORD (who live in the place the LORD chose). The Levite living away from the place the LORD would choose was to have equal portions to eat, besides what he received from the sale of his patrimony (estate).

Laws regarding abominable practices of the nations that live in Canaan

When Israel enters the Promised Land, they are not to learn to follow the abominable practices of the nation's dwelling there.

Israel was not to:

- Burn their son or daughter as an offering.
- Practices divination, tell fortunes or interpret omens.
- Be a sorcerer, a charmer, a medium, a wizard or a necromancer.

The nations that Israel was about to dispossess listened to fortune-tellers and diviners, but whoever listened to fortune-tellers and diviners was an abomination to the LORD, it was because of these abominations that the LORD is about to drive out the nations before Israel. Israel was to be blameless before the LORD. He did not allow Israel to listen to diviners, fortune tellers or interpreters of omens, a sorcerer, charmer, medium, wizard or necromancer.

2

The meaning of the following words from Strong's Concordance

Charmer: means to join (literal or figurative), specifically by means of spells, to fascinate or charm together and to join oneself and people together.

Consulte: means to earnestly inquire, ask, consult or request.

Divination: means a lot, an oracle of divination (including its fee or reward), to determine by lot or magical scroll a divine sentence, by implication a diviner or soothsayer and witchcraft.

Enchanter: means to whisper a (magic) spell, generally it means to prophesy, forecast, foresee or predict, to divine or enchant.

Familiar: (Is not in the Strong's Concordance).

Medium: (consulter with familiar spirits in KJV) (see consulte above).

Necromancer: means to tread or frequent, usually to follow, ask, or pursue and diligently inquire, search or seek, specifically to seek to worship from others.

Observer: means to cover or cloud over, figuratively it means to act covertly by practising magic, to bring an enchanter, an observer of times, a soothsayer or sorcerer.

Sorcerer: (witch in KJV) means to whisper a spell, to enchant or practise magic, a sorcerer or one who uses witchcraft.

Tell fortunes: (is an observer of times in KJV).

Observer: means to cover or cloud over, figuratively it means to act covertly by practising magic, to bring an enchanter, an observer of times, a soothsayer or sorcerer.

Witch: means to whisper a spell, to enchant or practise magic (sorcerer or use of witchcraft).

Wizard: means a knowing one, specifically a conjurer.

Echo of Jesus and True Prophets.

Deuteronomy 18:⁵Moses told the people of Israel: the LORD your God will *raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers* it is to him you shall listen ¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' ¹⁷and the LORD said to me, 'they are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

The prophet the Lord would raise up like Moses naturally refers to the prophets that rose up after Moses, but the ultimate prophet the God had in mind was of course Lord Jesus Christ.

False prophets

The prophet who presumes to speak a word in the LORD'S name that He did not commanded him to speak was to be put to death and the prophet who speaks in the name of other gods was to be put to death.

3

Test for a true or false prophet

If Israel was uncertain and wondered in their heart, how can they know if it is a word from the LORD or not, if the word did not come to pass or come true then it was not a word the LORD had spoken, the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, Israel need not be afraid of him.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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