

## Prophecies of Moses

### Commentary for May 1, 2010 — ... and False Prophecies

Several prophecies given by Moses dealt with the time of the end, a period still future to us today. The term “prophet” had a wide meaning in the Old Testament and included the functions of being a preacher and a writer as well as someone who predicted the future. The prophecies of Moses were most always about the people and nation of Israel.

“Mosaic Prophecies for the End Time” is the major article for May 2010 and Dr. Ernest L. Martin discusses different attributes of those prophecies by Moses to Israel. Read first the [“May 2010 Newsletter.”](#) Moses is the first of the prophets whose writings we have in our possession today, which together are called the Law of Moses, the Torah. These five books are a schoolmaster, the purpose of which is to lead us, guard us, instruct us, and to escort us to Christ (Galatians 3:24–26).

Moses gave prophecies that related to Christ’s first coming (John 1:17, 45) as the apostle Paul tells us:

**“And when they had appointed him [Paul] a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.”**

• *Acts 28:23*

Other prophecies related to conditions in Israel and the world before Christ returns. These are discussed in Dr. Martin’s article. Other prophets came after Moses, but all prophets afterward were compared to him — until Christ came:

**“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, ...”**

• *Hebrews 1:1–2*

One important Mosaic prophecy was Deuteronomy 18:15–16. Jesus was the prophet **“like unto me”** (verse 15), as Stephen said in Acts 7:37. The prophecy was further explained in detail by Peter when he preached in the Temple on Solomon’s porch in Acts chapter 3, soon after receiving the Holy Spirit. Peter said that the people of Jerusalem were well aware of recent events: Jesus’ crucifixion, events surrounding his death, and the disciples’ later testimony to His resurrection. These fulfilled this important and specific Mosaic prophecy:

**“For Moses truly said unto the fathers [quoting Deuteronomy 18:15–16],**

**‘A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall you hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.’**

**Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise [like Moses] foretold of these days [the tumultuous days Peter and the people of Jerusalem lived through and many directly witnessed].**

**You are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, ‘And in your seed shall all the kindreds of the earth**

**be blessed** [quoting Genesis 12:3].' **Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.**"

• *Acts 3:22–26*

Peter was speaking immediately after momentous events that all people of Jerusalem were fully aware of, events that happened just weeks before. Furthermore, Peter's statements were immediately prefaced by the miraculous healing of a crippled man before everyone's eyes (Acts 3:1–12).

It is important to ask yourself, do you believe Peter's statement that he preached to the Jews of Jerusalem back then? Do you believe Moses made the prophecy? Do you believe Moses' prophecy was fulfilled by Christ as Peter says? Such questions are valuable if they lead you to study God's word more closely and more often.

When we read the prophecies given through God's prophets, we need to consider the contexts in which the prophecies were given and how they were fulfilled. For one thing, our standard of evidence today may be different from that in New Testament times. For another, the common people understood the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings much better than we generally credit them. The Old Covenant was an integral part of their lives.

So, how can we determine a false prophecy and false prophets? That is the subject of a second article this month, "The Falsification of Prophecy" by Dr. Martin. It is about determining true prophets from false ones. This is important for us to know as the future begins to get even more "exciting."

Dr. Martin makes reference to biblical interpreters who make predictions based on faulty interpretation of Scripture and how we should react to their accuracy. God does not make mistakes. Men do. Some mistakes are forgivable while other mistakes are evil and demonstrate a self-serving agenda.

Prophecies need to be properly interpreted. Questions should be asked of every prophecy: When will it occur? What will occur? Will it occur in a time near to us, in my lifetime, or in the far future? Who does it apply to? Does the prophecy apply to a particular place or geographical location? Moses said that the people should ask: **"How shall we know the word which YHWH has not spoken?"** (Deuteronomy 18:21). Moses gave them the answer in subsequent verses.

In the future many people will be giving prophecies. Some of them will purport to be from God directly, prophecies in addition to Scripture. Indeed, some very specific prophecies will be coming in the future. Those prophecies will be from God:

**"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of YHWH come."**

• *Joel 2:28–31*

This prophecy in Joel takes place just after the tribulation as Jesus said in Matthew 24:29 ("**immediately after the tribulation of those days ...**"), Mark 13:24–25, and in Luke 21:25–26. As much as possible Scripture must interpret Scripture. God's has graced us with an inter-related and interwoven textual matrix so that indeed Scripture interprets itself.

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