

**The Mosaic Prophet:  
The Divinely Commissioned Agent of Righteousness in Israel  
Deuteronomy 18:9-22  
Veritas Class  
January 12, 2014**

**a. The Alternatives to a Prophet Like Moses:**

Practices Abominable to God

- (1) Offering children as sacrifices
- (2) Divination
- (3) Sorcery
- (4) Omens
- (5) Black Magic/Witchcraft
- (6) Casting Spells
- (7) Mediums (consulting ghosts)
- (8) Consulting Familiar Spirits
- (9) Necromancy

Fundamental Assumptions of these Abominable Practices

- (1) There is a link between the natural and supernatural world that makes cooperation between these spheres possible.
- (2) There is a world of supernatural forces that constantly threaten human beings or that may be harnessed for personal benefit.
- (3) The wills and operations of supernatural forces may be deciphered in natural phenomena through unsolicited omens (e.g., solar eclipses, birth anomalies) and solicited omens (examining entrails, dropping arrows).
- (4) By invoking the gods or manipulating other supernatural forces, a person may affect the outcome of events.
- (5) Since magic is a science, these skills can be taught and learned.

**b. The Nature of the Promise of a Prophet Like Moses (vv. 15-20)**

**(1) Lessons on true prophecy from v. 15**

- (a) The medium of divine revelation is called a *nābîʿ*.
- (b) YHWH provides Israel with their prophets—he raises them up (*hēqîm*).
- (c) The prophet will be an Israelite: “from your midst, from your brothers”
- (d) The prophet will be like Moses.

**What kind of prophet was Moses?**

- Like Abraham, he interceded with God on behalf of the people (Deut 9:18-20; 25-29; cf. Gen 20:7).
- Like Aaron, he will speak for God (Exod 7:1)

- He was empowered by the Spirit. (Num 11:16-29)
- He knew YHWH face to face (Deut 34:10)
- YHWH spoke to him directly, clearly, and unambiguously—not in riddles (Num 12:6-8)
- He was a “servant of YHWH.” (Num 12:6-8; Josh 1:1)

**What kind of prophet did Moses think he was? (vv. 16-20)**

- The critical moment: “the day of the assembly” (the expression also occurs in 9:10; 10:4; cf. 4:10).
- The critical event: the sound and sight of YHWH’s presence (a summary of 5:22-27)
- The critical response: acknowledgment of the intolerable nature of a direct encounter with God).
- The critical divine reaction:

He approved the people’s response (v. 17; cf. 5:28).

He promised prophetic succession for Moses (vv. 18-20)

**(2) The Promise of Future Prophets Like Moses (v. 18a)**

**(3) The Nature of the Future Prophets’ Activity (v. 18b)**

- (a) The prophet will receive a message from YHWH.
- (b) The prophet will pass on the divine message to the intended audience.

**(4) The Gravitas of Future Prophetic Activity (vv. 19-20)**

- (a) YHWH’s warning to the people not to reject the message of his authorized spokesperson (v. 19).
- (b) YHWH’s warning to those who hold the office of “prophet” not to abuse it (v. 20).