

**The Mosaic Prophet:
The Divinely Commissioned Agent of Righteousness in Israel**

Deuteronomy 18:9-22

Veritas Class; February 9, 2014

1. Who is the Prophet “Like Moses?”

The Natural Interpretation: God promised hereby to keep contact with his people through the institution of prophecy.

- a. The institution is represented by a continuous series of divinely appointed spokespersons that lasted from Moses until Malachi.
- b. The succession resumes with John the Baptist.
- c. As in this text, the focus in the Scriptures is often on people’s response to the prophet.

Acts 7:37-60

Acts 3:13-26

2. The Messianic Interpretation

a. The Dead Sea Scrolls

4Q521 speaks of a “Messiah, whom heaven and earth will obey.”

Other Epithets: “branch of David,” “Prince” or “Prince of (all) the congregation”

11QMelchizedek

b. The New Testament

Matthew 6:4

Luke 13:34-35

Luke 24:19

John 4:19

John 9:17

Matthew 21:11

John 6:14

John 7:40-41

3. Significance of this text for us

- a. How then should we live?
- b. What about the office of prophecy in the New Testament?

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Ephesians 2:19-22

Ephesians 3:2-6

Ephesians 4:11-22

Acts 21:8-11

Pursuing Righteousness in Everyday Life

Deuteronomy 19:1-13

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Preface

A. Two Opening Questions:

1. How did we get here?
2. Where are we going?

B. The Key Verse: 16:20: "Righteousness, righteousness you shall pursue."

C. The Context of 19:1-13:

Pursuing Covenant Righteousness in Matters of Life and Death (19:1-21:9)

- a. Righteousness in Cases of Manslaughter (and Greed) (19:1-13)
- b. Righteousness in Courts of Law (19:15-21)
- c. Righteousness in Military Engagement (20:1-20)
- d. Righteousness in the Face of an Unsolved Crime (21:1-9)

D. Righteousness in Cases of Manslaughter (19:1-13)

1. The Background to the Passage

- a. The authorization of humans to execute murderers. (Exodus 21:12-14)
- b. The Provision for the "Avenger of Blood" (*gō'ēl ha-dām*)
- c. The Provision of Asylum Towns (Numbers 35:6-34)

2. The Structure of the Passage

Theme: The Provision of Asylum for Innocent Manslaughter (vv. 1-13)

- a. The Nature of the Provision (vv. 1-3)
- b. The Need for the Provision (vv. 4-7, 9)
- c. The Expansion of the Provision (vv. 8, 10-13)

3. The Style of the Passage

4. The Themes of the Passage

- a. The Sanctity of Human Life
- b. The Sanctity of the Land

5. The Historical Context of the Passage

- a. Within months or weeks of having received the prescriptions in Numbers 35.
- b. After the victory over the Amorite kings east of the Jordan (4:41-43).
- c. Before the conquest of the land (Joshua 20:7-8)