

**YOU, THE FAITHFUL, SHALL HEAR THE PROPHET**

Hear again the Word of the Lord that declares His love to His Church:

*A Prophet like me (the) Lord your God will raise up for you from your brothers: Him you shall hear.<sup>1</sup>*

**Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**

Well, December 21<sup>st</sup> has come and gone. The Mayan Calendar has ended, (the Jello offering apparently worked). Another false end-of-the-world prophecy has come and gone. Those who feared its worst, or hoped for its fulfillment are without excuse. (Though, at least one nasa.gov site declares the final date for the calendar reset is today)!<sup>2</sup> Even now, the world still turns with all its sins and evil desires.

We who trusted in the Word of God in the hope, peace, joy, and love of the Advent season, through the grace of God kept our beholding, watching, rejoicing, and preparing focused on the love of Him Who is revealed by the Holy Scriptures. God has shown His love for us: for while we were still sinners, He sent His Son to die for us. God became one with us, born of woman. He did so to rescue us from sin, death, and all the terror which comes on the true Last Day for those who will face the full glory of God without the Faith, as it is completed in the Final Prophet, Whom Moses still declares:

*A Prophet like me (the) Lord your God will raise up for you from your brothers: Him you shall hear.<sup>3</sup>*

Those words follow teachings which remind us that there have been false prophecies and false prophets who will come in the midst of God's people. Why, the

---

<sup>1</sup> Deuteronomy 18:15.

<sup>2</sup> Internet: [http://sunearthday.nasa.gov/2011/articles/2012\\_hoax.php](http://sunearthday.nasa.gov/2011/articles/2012_hoax.php), accessed 22 December 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Deuteronomy 18:15.

very first false prophet was and is the devil! His prophecy to Eve as he tricked her into eating the forbidden fruit, by saying, “you will not surely die,” was shown to be the lie it remains.<sup>4</sup> From that time, following the “father of lies,” false prophets and false preachers have continued to bedevil the people of God, tempting us to turn from the Word of God to teachings which stand apart from it.<sup>5</sup>

Following warnings to God’s chosen people about false prophets, soothsayers, and the like, Moses’ words for today were first declared to the Israelites. His teaching was against going after or even listening to anyone who proclaimed anything other than God’s pure Word revealed through God’s true prophets. The Word of God for today came forth after His people trembled upon hearing His Word and seeing His might in cloud and fire. They demanded that Moses be the mediator between them and God. They cried out “if we hear the Voice of the Lord our God anymore, then we shall die.”<sup>6</sup> Moses reminds the Israelites of all that, even as he declares:

*Thus you desired from YHWH your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, “Do not cause to let me hear the Voice of YHWH my God; and this Great Fire, let me not see (it) anymore, lest I die.”<sup>7</sup>*

It is the love of God that hears and answers his people’s cry to be spared from remaining in His glorious Presence while still clothed in their sins. He does so by granting them His chosen mediator. He did so first through Moses as prophet of the Old

---

<sup>4</sup> *Genesis 3:4 NKJV.*

<sup>5</sup> *cf. John 8:44 NKJV.*

<sup>6</sup> *cf. Deuteronomy 5:25.*

<sup>7</sup> *Deuteronomy 18:16.*

Covenant of blood, and then, in time, in the Prophet of New Covenant in His Blood.

Moses declares of that New Era:

*A Prophet like me (the) Lord your God will raise up for you from your brothers: Him you shall hear.<sup>8</sup>*

This last Sunday in Advent is the Sunday when the emphasis in the Church shifts to the coming of the Final Prophet. It truly prepares us for tomorrow night. From the fifteenth century BC into the end of the Old Covenant era, and into the beginning of the New Covenant era, the message of the Last Prophet Who is like Moses was declared. Those words of Moses' promises you have heard again today. He declares the Final Prophet will come only after he teaches about the priesthood, God's kingdom on earth, the government of that Kingdom, and what God determined was right worship in thought, word, chant, hymn, and practice.

That Moses promises the Last Prophet only after establishing the Word upon which God meant to build His rule on earth, means that this coming Prophet would usher in a New Reign of God on earth. God was saying through Moses, that there would be, once again, and forever, a mediator between God and man. He would spare His people from His fire and thunder. He would lead them into the Presence of God. Think carefully, as you answer this query: "Who is the Final Prophet of Whom Moses speaks?"

The answer is found in all the primary readings for this fourth Sunday of Advent, this Sunday which recalls God's unconditional love. The Psalm declares:

*Redemption He sent to His people; He commanded into forever His covenant; holy and awesome*

---

<sup>8</sup> Deuteronomy 18:15.

*(is) His Name!*<sup>9</sup> Deuteronomy echoes that promising in the Mediator of the New Covenant: *A Prophet like me (the) Lord your God will raise up for you from your brothers: Him you shall hear.*<sup>10</sup> St. John proclaims the Last Prophet with these words from the last Old Covenant prophet: *I baptize in water; (in the ) midst of all of you stands One Whom you do not know, the One after me continually coming, of Whom I am not worthy that I might loosen the leather straps of His sandals.*<sup>11</sup> The work for and in His people of the Continually Coming One, is declared by St. Paul with these words: *The Lord (is) near; do not be anxious, but in all things by the prayer and the (specific) requests with thanksgivings, the requests of all of you continue to make known to God.*<sup>12</sup> From all those texts, tied together by the common thread of the Holy Spirit, I ask you again, “Who is the Final Prophet of Whom Moses speaks?”

He is Jesus. Yes, John’s divine prophetic role is critical in getting us to Jesus. Though John is featured in the readings of the Church for the last two weeks of Advent, he is not really the one who is to receive the attention of the faithful. Rather, like Moses, that last Old Testament prophet points to the One Whom he says is about to come. The Church Year, though humanly devised over 15 centuries ago, remains so helpful in preparing God’s people for the coming of God in our flesh. It serves to keep our attention on the Word of God which declares the Word of God’s coming in our human form. He alone, of all people born of woman, holds the Office of Prophet, even as He comes as King, and serves as eternal High Priest. Moses says of the Prophet, Jesus:

---

<sup>9</sup> *Psalm* 111:9.

<sup>10</sup> *Deuteronomy* 18:15.

<sup>11</sup> *John* 1:26-27.

<sup>12</sup> *Philippians* 4:5b-6.

*A Prophet like me (the) Lord your God will raise up for you from your brothers: Him you shall hear.*<sup>13</sup>

The message of Moses flows from the declaration that the coming prophet like him, the Mediator between God and His people, is the One Whom God's people shall hear. They are you, the faithful, you shall hear the Prophet. The Church waited a long time for that Last Prophet's Advent!

Moses declared about the Last Prophet, "Him you shall hear." God Himself, as the Voice from heaven, repeated those words about fifteen centuries after Moses. That happened at the time when Jesus was shown in His full glory, speaking with Moses and another prophet, Elijah. The Feast Day that recalls that event is coming up in five weeks, if we all survive today (remember the NASA dating).

If not, we, the faithful, by God's grace, will enter the unending Feast of the Final Prophet. We will recline at His Table, as His honored guests, and truly rejoice always. We know that to be true through the work of the Holy Spirit, we have continued to "hear Him," where He has promised to be – in His Word, proclaimed and visible.

What a different manner of appearing this Prophet has when compared to Moses. The Last Prophet, the Ultimate Prophet, did not come down from a mountain filled with smoke and fire, with the chosen people of God trembling at its foot. In His coming there was no need for the people of God to cry out, as you have heard Moses say,

*"Do not cause to let me hear the Voice of YHWH my God; and this Great Fire, let me not see (it) anymore, lest I die."*<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> Deuteronomy 18:15.

<sup>14</sup> Deuteronomy 18:16b.

You hearers of the Final Prophet have no need to hear God affirm your death in seeing and hearing Him, as did those at the foot of Horeb, when God said, *they have caused rightly to speak that which they said.*<sup>15</sup> That was said because the Word that Moses brought to them was the Covenant of Death. It was one which, written on stone tablets, showed God's people that they cannot keep His Word in thought, word, or deed. They had promised to keep the entire Word of God. All the while they should have known from its purity, declared in the fire, smoke and thunder which they saw and heard as the Word was given, that they could not keep it in even in part. They could see the Ten Commandments, the Ten Words, and hear their failings. They had been given the sacrifices of death, of blood, of covering, which were needed constantly to show them the price of their transgressions, their sins. Their fear and trembling, their asking for a mediator, is the result that is worked in those who have had their sins made clear in beholding the Advent of the Holy One in His full glory. It is what those who cling to the world, and its false prophecies and prophets will again experience at the Last Advent of the Last Prophet on the Last Day, whose date is known only to God! Moses still says:

*"A Prophet I will cause to raise up for them from among their brothers, One like you; and I will give My Word in His Mouth; and He will speak to them all the things which I command (to) Him."*<sup>16</sup>

The Last Prophet of God came from among the brothers of Israel. He was conceived in the womb of an Israelite maiden. He was born into the family and line of Judah. He spoke, and still speaks, the Word of God to give consolation to those troubled

---

<sup>15</sup> Deuteronomy 18:17.

<sup>16</sup> Deuteronomy 18:18.

on account of their sins. In Him the Word of God is enfleshed. He speaks the Word of God because He is God. Jesus testifies of Himself, when asked to show the Father to the faithful: He who hears Me hears the Father.<sup>17</sup> Jesus, like Moses, is a mediator between God and man. He keeps God's people away from the fire and smoke and thunder of God's holiness. He places the prayer, specific requests, and askings of God's people before the Lord, and He hears them for the Mediator's sake.

Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant. The full power of the office and ministry of Moses has, for the true faithful, been gloriously overshadowed by the Office and Ministry of the Christ. Moses, whose ministry culminated in the preaching of John's call into repentance, was surpassed by Jesus. The conviction, condemnation, and killing of the Law has been superseded by the acquittal, atonement, and enlivening of the Gospel. God's people, we who are aware of our sins, and our need for a mediator with the Holy God, have been sent the continually coming One. He has paid the price for us. He comes to us through Jesus' chosen means of mediating the gifts of God – preaching and the administration of the Sacraments.

Yet, for those who cling to those prophets who declare any mediator between God and man there is another promise. Whether they be proponents of finding the mysteries of the universe from a calendar from a long-dead civilization, or preachers who give any other means for approaching God than Christ-crucified, they are condemned.

---

<sup>17</sup> cf. *John* 12:50.

Moses still declares to those who look to any message from anyone other than the Last Prophet:

*Then any man, if he will not hear which things the Prophet may speak by My Name, I will require it from him.*<sup>18</sup>

Their lives God will require from them. Death, eternal separation from God is that which God will grant to those who reject the Prophet in His coming, from the incarnation in His immaculate conception onwards. Life, eternal blessedness in a glorified body, is that which God will grant for those who continue to believe in the Advent of the Prophet like (Moses, Whom the) Lord your God will resurrect for you out of your brothers: Him you shall hear.<sup>19</sup>

This year, Advent ends with that promise tomorrow. The Church declares its fulfillment in the coming of the Christ, in the Flesh, in the Manger. He has come to usher in the New Covenant in His blood. You, the faithful, continue to hear that Prophet.

**The peace which passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus**

*Advent IV (Lutheran Service Book one-year series)*

Deuteronomy 15:18-19; Philippians 4:4-7; John 1:19-28

December 21, 2012

*Pastor Michael L. Morhouse*

**SOLI DEO GLORIA**

---

<sup>18</sup> Deuteronomy 18:19.

<sup>19</sup> Deuteronomy 18:15.