

the identification of true prophets . That material must now be added to this portion so as to give us a full picture of a prophet and a more complete way of recognizing him in his service. While this passage indeed looks to the future, it had or has a real message for the present. Those who claim to be speakers for God appear in every age and the people of God are often deceived by them. Well, that is another story, but if we apply the Biblical standards in a competent way we are not so easily misled. It is another corrective on the path-way. We look at Deuteronomy 18:15-22 and use it as a practical criterion for discernment. As this is a short section we need no added outline and may proceed directly to the text.

II. Discussion

18:15.....the promise is for another prophet like Moses. Think of what is involved in that.

18:16.....to meet the needs of the people...comfortably

18:17.....The Lord, having recognized the need of the people, agrees that it should be met.

18:18.....He promises an enlightened prophet...

- I will raise Him up
- I will put my words in His mouth
- He will speak to you as I instruct Him

18:19.....and you will listen..those who will not listen will be in a position for divine rebuke

18:20.....But, if He speaks contrary to what God has said...

18:21.....amd you wonder how to know the truth...

18:22.....if it comes to pass or does not...then the verdict is clear

The witness of Jesus
 4:14:10
 5:19
 7:16
 8:26

III. Conclusion

The prophetic test is straightforward and simple. Putting Deuteronomy 13 and 18 together...the one who claims to be a prophet (speaking in the name of God) must lead the people to God, must agree with God's Word as known, and must have what he predicts come to pass. Otherwise he is a false prophet. I will elaborate on that for one can be a true prophet but have a lapse and make a prophesy that is not true...all tested by the same standard. The New Testament usage of this passage will be found in Acts 2:27 (as well as 3:19 ff), Acts 7:37, amd John 1:45. The Lord Jesus is that prophet in final form and the word of God is ultimate in that one must listen to Him or have no part in the kingdom of God. And for one more time, may God bless you richly with His Word today.