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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## Prophet of Deliverance Deuteronomy 18:15-22

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Today's study comes from the book of Deuteronomy, the fifth and final book of what is often called the Pentateuch, the Torah, or the five books of Law. Moses was a prophet of the Lord as well as the lawgiver to God's covenant people. The title "Deuteronomy" comes from the Septuagint, which is the Greek translation of the Old Testament. It means "second [giving of the] law." Deuteronomy 18, from which today's lesson is drawn, is the climax of a series of instructions concerning various leadership positions that would offer guidance to God's people. The retirement of a trusted leader can be a time of great stress. If succession plans are not put into place or are not carried out with wisdom and integrity, the organization experiences undue stresses that can spell its demise. God did not want this for His people, and so Moses was given a word by which to reassure them that they would still be led by the Lord and His chosen prophets even after the 40-year tenure of Moses. That leadership had spanned two generations. Moses had taught the Israelites what they needed to know in living as God's covenant people. Moses wanted to make certain that the people would not engage in practices that would enslave them to the gods of the peoples around them. He wanted the people to be delivered from those influences and fully committed to the Lord as their only God. This is no less true for Christians. The apostle John gave this warning in Revelation 22:18-19.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Genuine faith stays strong when deliverance seems distant

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**

I have learned to love my Savior,  
And I trust Him more each day;  
For no matter what the trial,  
He will always be my stay. —Hess

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

But if not, let it be known to you,  
O king, that we do not serve your gods,  
nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up  
**(Dan 3:18 NKJV)**

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 04, 2004)*

**God's Mouthpieces** - The world is a noisy place filled with screens, phones, talk shows, chat rooms, social media, and so many avenues calling for attention. Nevertheless, God continues to call out for humanity to pay close attention, listen to His voice. He desires for His messages to be heard above all the others. In Old Testament times, the prophets operated as God's mouthpieces. Still, first they needed to hear what the Lord had to say to communicate accurately. God spoke to Moses from a burning bush, capturing his attention. He became one of the Father's initial messengers.

**Be Careful** - The Bible makes it clear: be extremely careful when calling yourself a prophet. If you make bold statements like "God told me to tell you.." these pronouncements should not then be your own opinions or thoughts. The Bible also warns those who make such spiritual declarations with their roots in a false god or philosophy. No one should blurt out personal opinions or statements claiming to represent God without really knowing Him.

**Questions to Ask** - How can we be sure if what's being heard is definitely from the true and living God? We ask, "Are the prophecies they are proclaiming coming to pass? Do these statements line up with Scripture?" The apostle John adds that a faithful minister of God's Word confesses Jesus came in the flesh and is absolutely the Son of God; a prophet's words will exalt Christ (1 John 2:18-27).

**Listen** - Daily, God pleads with all human beings, "Please look in my direction and listen to what I have to say." How can we be sure it's His voice? The key is continually asking the Holy Spirit for His counsel and insight about what is being shared.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

**Series: Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant**

**UNIT 1: Faithful Prophets**

**NEXT WEEK**

Assoc. Pastor  
Don Smarto  
Teacher

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Prophet of Promise (Deut 18:15-16)**

#### *Promise of future prophets (15)*

Future prophet like Joshua (Deut 3:26-29)

Future prophet like Samuel (Acts 3:22-24)

Future prophet like John the Baptist (John 1:21-23)

Future prophet as the Ultimate Prophet - Jesus (John 1:45)

#### *Promise of future intercessors (16)*

Intercession by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:26)

Intercession by Jesus the Christ (Rom 8:34)

Intercession by Jesus the High Priest (Heb 7:23-25)

Intercession by future believers (1 Tim 2:1)

### **Prophet that will Speak God's Words (Deut 18:17-19)**

#### *Words that are good (17)*

Good because they provide a blessing to our work (James 1:25)

Good because they expose sin (Rom 7:7)

Good because the Holy Spirit gives joy when the word is welcomed (1 Thess 1:6)

Good because they were written to make our joy full (1 John 1:4)

#### *Words that are from God (18)*

From God because they are the actual words of God (1 Thess 2:13)

From God because they are truth and they will bear fruit (Col 1:5-6)

From God because they come with the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 1:5)

From God because they are living and enduring (1 Peter 1:23)

#### *Words that must be heard and obeyed (19)*

Hear and obey the Word so that we might not sin (Ps 119:11)

Hear and obey the Word so that we will be able to stand when troubles come (Luke 6:47-48)

Hear and obey the Word so that we will be successful (Joshua 1:8)

Hear and obey the Word so that we will be able to distinguish good from evil (Heb 5:14)

### **Test of a True Prophet (Deut 18:20-22)**

#### *Test of source of prophecy (20)*

Source must be from God (Isa 50:4)

Source must be through the Holy Spirit (Isa 59:21)

Source must be through those who God appoints and sends (Jer 14:14-16)

Source not from God makes them false prophets (Matt 7:15)

#### *Test of accuracy of prophecy (21-22)*

Prophets must be accurate to prove they were sent by God (Jer 28:5-10)

Prophets must be accurate and adhere to God's Word (Deut 13:1-3)

Prophets are accurate when God reveals Himself through visions and dreams (Num 12:6)