

“THE PROPHET LIKE MOSES”

Beloved Jewish friends—Shalom Aleichem!

This morning’s discussion continues the series of messages on the subject “Identification Marks of the Messiah.”

The prophecy which comprises the subject of the message, “The Prophet Like Unto Moses,” is from the law. We turn now to the fifth book of Moses, the book of Deuteronomy, for the reading of the prophecy in English and in Hebrew. It is found in chapter eighteen, verses fifteen, eighteen and nineteen, and reads as follows:

“The Lord your God will raise unto you a prophet from the midst of you, of your brethren, like Me; unto Him you shall hearken. I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren like you, and will put my words in His mouth; and He shall speak unto them all that I shall command Him. And it shall come to pass that whosoever will not hearken to my words which He shall speak in My name, I will require it of him.”
End of quote.

At least thirty-five centuries – thirty-five hundred years – have passed since the God of Israel spoke these words to our prophet Moses. Some rabbis and Jewish scholars have stated that Joshua was the fulfillment of this prediction, but it was after Moses had turned over the reins to Joshua and after Joshua had been installed that the Word of God informs us in chapter thirty-four, verse ten, of the book of Deuteronomy, quote, “...there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.”
End of quote. In other words, this verse makes it clear that Joshua was not the prophet described by God in the passage under our consideration for Joshua had been installed prior to the time of this verse. Furthermore, Moses was a mediator between God and the people of Israel, but Joshua was not so honored. Also, God did not reveal His will to Joshua as He did to Moses, nor did Joshua have any direct vision of Almighty God as did Moses. Hence, Joshua must be ruled out insofar as being a prophet like Moses.

Jeremiah also has been suggested as this particular prophet. The choice is based on the fact that Jeremiah, like Moses, often reproved and rebuked Israel for their sins. Jeremiah, however, was not alone in this action for all of the other prophets did the same. The choice of Jeremiah has also been based on the fact that he spoke to Israel regarding their captivity and deliverance. In this respect, Jeremiah again was not alone for almost all of the other prophets had something to say to Israel about being made captives and then being set free. An astute scholar of the Scriptures in speaking of the possibility of Jeremiah being the prophesied person said, quote: “Moses was a deliverer, the beginner of Israel’s national independence, the author of the song of triumph, and under God, supreme governor. Jeremiah was involved in the calamities of his people, a witness of national ruin, the author of the Lamentations, and the helpless victim of oppression.”
Hence, Jeremiah must be ruled out as being a prophet like unto Moses.

Still others have explained that the prophecy of Moses permits the implication that there will be a succession of prophets, one after another, like Moses. Against this presentation is the fact that the word in Hebrew for “prophet,” is singular. God says “a prophet” – not prophets.” Further, the word prophet is never spoken of collectively. It remains then for all to understand that Moses was a prophet unlike the generality of prophets.

Our Jewish people in past ages were looking for this prophecy of Moses, this portion of the Law, to be fulfilled. Even today there are some Jewish people who agree

that this prophecy must be fulfilled and that it might be fulfilled by a “real man” for the prophecy clearly states that the prophet will be like Moses. Other prophecies – many of them – have been fulfilled as time has passed. Has there been no prophet like Moses in the thirty-five hundred years since the prophecy was made? Has God overlooked this promise?? No, such is not the case nor ever could be! Over nineteen hundred years ago this prophecy was fulfilled in the Holy Land of Palestine when multitudes of our Jewish people beheld a certain man performing such outstanding miracles that they exclaimed, “This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world”! This was said by our Jewish people of Jesus the Nazarene!

Was Jesus that prophet? Was He the awaited one? There need be no mistake because He would have to be like Moses. Let us see, then, if He was:

Moses was doomed to death as an infant. King Pharaoh had decreed, “Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river.” Jesus was doomed to death as an infant. Herod, King of Judea, upon learning of the birth of Jesus, ordered all children from two years old and under slain that Jesus might be destroyed.

Moses was wonderfully preserved in Egypt; when his mother feared to hide him any longer, she placed him in a little ark at the brink of a river. He was rescued by a daughter of Pharaoh. Jesus was also wonderfully preserved in Egypt: An angel of the Lord in a dream instructed Joseph, the husband of Mary who was the mother of Jesus to take the young child and flee into Egypt until word would be brought to him that it was safe to return. Joseph arose, took the young child and His mother and went into Egypt, until God instructed Joseph that it was safe to return to Palestine.

Moses spent forty years of his life in humble circumstances. Jesus was laboring as a carpenter when He reached manhood.

Moses fasted forty days in the wilderness. Jesus fasted forty days in the wilderness.

Moses was revealed to Israel by miracles. Well-known is the one when the Red Sea divided at his command. Jesus was revealed to Israel also by miracles. The Sea of Galilee became calm at His command.

In these and various other ways, Jesus was like unto Moses. One of the chief ways in which it can be determined that Jesus was the prophet of whom Moses wrote is by the fact that a true prophet is a foreteller of future events. Of this ability, Moses said, “...when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not nor come to pass...the prophet has spoken presumptuously.” Moses predicted the dispersion of our Jewish people as the result of disobedience to the commands of God. Jesus also predicted the scattering of us Jewish people. The prophecies of both Moses and Jesus have been literally fulfilled. Fulfilling Moses’ prophecy, our people were taken to Babylon as captive. Fulfilling the prophecies of Jesus our people were scattered to the four parts of the earth and often were captives of their enemies!

On another occasion, when the attention of Jesus was directed to the splendor of the temple in Jerusalem, He said, “There shall not be left here one stone upon another that

shall not be thrown down.” In Seventy AD this prediction by Jesus was literally fulfilled when the temple was leveled!

Jesus made other predictions and among them was this one, in which He calls Himself “The Son of Man,” title of our Jewish Messiah! Quote: “The Son of Man shall be betrayed into the hands of men. They shall kill Him and the third day He shall be raised again.” End of quote. And it came to pass some nineteen hundred years ago that this prophecy by the prophet Jesus, was literally fulfilled! Of a truth, Herod and Pontius Pilate, together, falsely accused Jesus and condemned Him to death! He was nailed to a cross from which He cried out, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” In that way He gave up His life! Placed in a tomb, Jesus the prophet arose on the third day as He prophesied! And hundreds upon hundreds in Israel saw Him on at least twelve different occasions after He rose from the dead!

But prior to His death, Jesus had also said, “I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.” End of quote. Then why did He lay His life down? He laid His life down, Jewish friends, because it is written in our Jewish Scriptures that there would come One who would die for our nation, and not for our nation only, but also for the Gentile nations. Isaiah the prophet said that there would come One who would be stricken for our transgressions. Daniel the prophet said that there would come One who would be cut off but not for Himself but rather to finish the transgression, to make an end for sins, to make atonement for iniquity! Zechariah said, “Thus saith the Lord; they shall look upon Him whom they have pierced – stabbed through – slain!” and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for an only son. The Bible says, “Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have like-wise foretold of these days.” Jesus said that Moses wrote of Him! Jesus was that prophet who should come into the world! He came to fulfill the Scriptures! He came to pay the penalty for our sins!

To the Jewish people in Jerusalem, Jesus said, “You search the Scriptures for in them you think that you have eternal life, and they are they which testify of Me. And you will not come to Me that you might have eternal life.” Today, however, the case is the opposite. You do not search or study your own sacred Scriptures.

God and His prophets testify of Jesus by name, by type and by description; the New Testament, shows Jesus to be the fulfillment. In this message you have been shown that Jesus is the prophet like unto Moses, promised in our Jewish Bible. The prophecy also stated that that prophet should be heard, “in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you.” Jesus promises eternal life to them who come to Him.

The Word of God proclaims that “To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believes in Him shall receive remission of sins. And by Him all that believe are justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. “ For the remission of your sins, for justification from all things, for the gift of eternal life, you need only to believe on Him – Jesus – whom God sent and Who gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins! Salvation is by faith in Him! Eternal life can be yours today by turning to Him now! Do so as we remember you in prayer at this time!