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Tower of Strength

**“The name of the Lord is a strong tower
The righteous runs into it and is safe.”**

—Proverbs 18:10

A Study of the Messiah - The Face-to-Face Prophet -

In Exodus 20, God spoke directly to the people. He got no farther than the Ten Commandments, when,

All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it they trembled and stood at a distance. Then they said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die.” ...So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was (18–21).

Later, in Deuteronomy 18, Moses referred to this incident:

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. This is according to all that you asked of the Lord your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, “Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, let me not see this great fire

anymore, or I will die.” The Lord said to me, “They have spoken well. I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him” (15–18).

At first glance, this passage sounds like it could refer to any of the prophets throughout the history of the Jews. All the prophets, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Daniel, and so forth, revealed God’s words. All of their words needed to be obeyed. But God was referring to something much more specific.

In this passage, God speaks of a single prophet, a particular “he.” God had one man in mind, not the whole register of prophets.

And his role would exceed that of the rest of the prophets. He would be a prophet “like [Moses].” What made Moses special? God declared in Numbers 12:6–8 that while He spoke to the prophets in visions,

Not so with My servant Moses. He is faithful in all My household. With him I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings, and he beholds the form of the Lord.

Also, in Deuteronomy 34:10, after Moses died, it was said, “since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face...”

This promised prophet would have a special face-to-face relationship with God, like Moses did. While none of the prophets’ words were to be ignored, this one prophet’s words would require all that much closer attention for speaking in the name of God (Heb. 2:1–4).

This point was not lost on the Jews. When voicing Messianic expectation, the Jews spoke of “the prophet.” They asked John the Baptist, “are you the Prophet?” (John 1:21). Philip said, “we have found Him of whom Moses in the Law ... wrote” (John 1:45). When the people saw the miracles of Jesus, they said, “this is truly the Prophet

who is to come into the world” (John 6:14). When they heard the words of Jesus, they said, “this certainly is the Prophet” (John 7:40). The Jews knew to expect a special prophet in the mold of Moses, and they knew that none of the prophets since Moses had been the one. Many began to realize that Jesus was the one!

Peter asserted that Jesus was the one, in his second sermon, in Acts 3:22–26. He quoted from Deuteronomy 18, saying,

Moses said, “The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed to everything He says to you. And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.” And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days. It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, “And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Jesus, being the Son of God, beheld the true form of God in a way that no mortal man could. Jesus spoke “with authority” (Matthew 7:28–29) and in a way no man had ever spoken (John 7:46). Jesus’ words carry the full weight of God’s words, since He was the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2).

Thus, we see that one important aspect of the coming of Christ was not just to save, not just to lead, but also to **reveal**. He, and He alone, had the authority to read the Old Testament and say, “you have heard that it was said” and then to insert His own law, “but I say to you” (Matt. 5:21–22). His words must be attended to (John 12:42, 14:10) for they are God’s words, and they will judge us. Thus we see,

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For it the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? (Heb. 2:1–2).

—*John Guzzetta*

I Cannot Say

I cannot say OUR, if I am unconcerned about the lives of my brothers.

I cannot say FATHER, if I do not live as one of His children.

I cannot say WHO IS IN HEAVEN, if all my pursuits are earth-bound.

I cannot say HOLLOWED BE YOUR NAME, if I misuse His name in my everyday speech.

I cannot say YOUR KINGDOM COME, if I am not a citizen of the kingdom of heaven, looking forward to my eternal inheritance.

I cannot say YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN, if I am not willing to cooperate with God's plans.

I cannot say GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD if I am not willing to trust God to provide, and to say thanks when He does.

I cannot say FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS if I refuse to let go of the grudges I bear.

I cannot say DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION if I insist on toying with sin every opportunity I get.

I cannot say BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL if I am not prepared to don the armor of God, take up the sword of the Spirit, and fight!

I cannot say FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER if I neglect to worship His majesty.

I cannot say AMEN, if I am not ready to devote my heart, mind, strength, and soul to doing God's will!
—John Guzzetta

Quote of the Week:

“Temptation rarely comes during working hours. It is in their leisure time that men are made or marred.”
—W. M. Taylor