

Context

- 1] Moses has led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt into the wilderness.
- 2] At Mt Sinai, they are given the Law (10 coms +) but it is established they need a go-between between God & man 'do not let God speak to us lest we die' – Moses (Ex20:19)
- 3] After 40 yrs in the wilderness, this book of Dt is an account of his final speech.
- 4] In this section he foretells that, following on from himself, there will be 3 'go betweens' for God and the People - King, Priest and Prophet. (These all point to and will be gloriously fulfilled by Jesus Himself.)
- 5] Today we look at the last of these 3, 'the Prophet', asking 'What is God saying'?

Intro

- 1] Does God exist? No? (atheist) /Yes but helpless. /Yes, but in complete control?
- 2] If in control - What is the Lord saying, especially among this Coronavirus?

How *not* to hear God (9-14)

1] the instruction

- a) 'Come into the promised land (9a) ...'

nb Canaan (The land for Israel) foreshadows the Kingdom of God (fulfilment)

- b) '...which the Lord your God' (9b) ...

nb 'I am, who I am' (Ex 3:14)

'The God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ' (Eph 1:3; 1 Pet 1:3)

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given (Matt 28:19)

- c) '... is giving you' (9c)

nb by grace you have been saved not a work so that no one can boast (Eph 2:8,9)

GRACE - God GIVES us the land

2] Do not imitate the abominable practices of these nations (9d, cf 12)

Nb not detestable of 'marmite' but loathsome (fact and emotion) a visceral response

**Do not imitate the world around you (work, school, neighbours etc). **

3] Prohibited (10,11)

- a) child sacrifice

cf the people of Israel before the exile (2 Kings 17:17; 21:6)

cf our society? Sacrifice on the altar of finances, personal preference, freedom to do what we like,

b) divinations, tell fortunes, interprets omens. A sorcerer, a charmer, a medium, necromancer, (reveal future by enquiring of the dead) contact the dead.

Nb Physical and spiritual realm – God forbids any means of breaking into the spiritual realm.

4] God's command (13,14)

- a) You are to be blameless before God

nb No fortune tellers, diviners ... ie 'No gods before me' and 'No idols' (Deut 5:7,8)

- b) God has not allowed you to do this

Nb This is the command of God.

Put away all superstition – rabbits' feet, horoscopes --- spiritualism, black magic etc.

God does not allow any access to Him save through Himself / His prophet

How to hear God – Listen to Jesus? (15-19)

1] The Lord will raise up a prophet

a) like me (Moses) (15)

ie between God and man cf (Ex 20:19)

nb people of Jesus' time expecting this prophet. 'Are you Elijah, the prophet?' (John 1:21) – Peter quoted this verse preaching just after the day of Pentecost (Acts 3:22; 7:37)

b) as you desired / recognised (16)

nb People said, 'Do not let God speak to us lest we die' (Ex 20:19)

* Acknowledge – when God is close, people recognise they will die if they see / hear God. *

c) as the Lord confirmed

ie They are right in what they have spoken (17)

- Listen to the Word of God*

2] The Prophet (18,19)

a) I will raise up a prophet from among their brothers (18a)

nb Jesus – made in every way like us. In every respect, tempted as we are yet without sin (Heb 4:15)

Amazingly – Immanuel – God is with us (Matt 1:23)

b) I will put my Words in his mouth (18b)

*JESUS speaks the Word / He **IS** the Word*

c) He will do everything I require of Him (19)

cf the Word of God ... was made flesh (John 1:1)

1) *dwelt amongst us (John 1:14)*

2) *do my will – 'my food it to do the will of Him who sent me. (John 4:34)*

3) *give his life as a ransom for many (on the cross) (Mk 10:45)*

4) *He sent us His Holy Spirit*

a. bring to your remembrance all that I have said (John 14:26)

b. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Acts 1:8)

*Cf that is the Spirit to receive – the all-powerful Spirit of **Jesus***

Conclusion: What's God saying – in/through Jesus?

1] I am in complete control – (at the least, he has permitted the virus...)

2] God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)

a) He loves the world (in Deut) especially the poor the weak & marginalised

b) He gave His son to be crucified (!!!) – that we might live

3] If you hear that, maybe you are willing to believe in Him + receive His power.