## Deuteronomy 18:1-22 (January 8, 2021)

*Reflection:* How does God's word speak into our lives? Why does the Bible have such an impact on our actions and attitudes? How is a Christian's life fundamentally different than the life of a non-Christian?

## Read Deuteronomy 18:1-8 - Israel's treatment of the Levites

- A. Read Joshua 13:6-7, 14. What was the inheritance that the tribes of Israel were to share in, and what was the Levite's share?
- B. In v.1-4, What was to be allotted to the Levites? in v.5, what role do Levitical priests play in Israel? In v.6-8, when Levites moves from place-to-place, should he receive his benefits?

C. Reflect on the lives of the priests, how is God the inheritance of the Levites?

## *Read Deuteronomy 18:9-14 – Abominable Practices*

A. In v. 9-12, What were the abominations that the Israelites were not to follow? Why do you think people might turn to divination, fortunes, omens, mediums, etc.?

- B. From v.13-14, What is Moses' rationale for why Israel should not practice these things?
- C. What are some ways that non-Christians today try to communicate with the supernatural? Do Christians have freedom to practice this type of communication, why or why not?

*Read Deuteronomy 18:15-22 – Prophets – God's way of Communicating with Israel* A. From v.15, What does Moses promise Israel about how God will communicate with them? How was Israel to respond?

*B.* From v. 16-19, Why do prophets exist? (Cf. Deu 5:22-27) What role do they play between God and the people of Israel?

C. v.20-22, how were they to test whether a prophet was real or not?

Read Deu 34:9-11 and Jer 7:25, though God provided many prophets to Israel throughout history, none are uniquely like Moses. This is until his prophetic office is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. As Hebrews 1:1-2 says, "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world." (cf. Acts 3:19-23)

As we consider the role of communication and prophets, how does this affect our view of Jesus' words (and ultimately all of Scripture) in our faith and life?

There are many "prophetic" voices and views in our secular culture today, some that seemingly agree with our Christian ethics. How should we as Christians think through and understand these voices and views?

In our passage today, right living for Christians should be to love and be generous to our brothers and to look to God's word for answers. On this latter point, many in our Western world are like the Canaanites that want to connect to the supernatural, spiritual world for answers. There are also many in our day that try to act as these prophetic voices. We as Christians should be wary of these types of answers because it is God alone who knows the truth and we should look to Him to find the answers we seek.