

Whose Voice You Gonna Listen To?

Provisions and Prohibitions

Deuteronomy 18:1-22



A Relevant Issue?

Doug Sweet in the Wall Street Journal.

He says he hesitated. He says he felt the need to go inside to share his views with Congress but wanted to consult God first.

He prayed aloud: "Lord, is this the right thing to do? Is this what I need to do?" He says he felt God's hand on his back, pushing him forward. "I checked with the Lord," he says.

"I checked with Him three times.

I never heard a 'No.'"

Could this be a product of a
“paganized” Christianity that has put
more stock in divine impressions
than in written revelation?

Deuteronomy 18:1-2

The Levitical priests, all the tribe of Levi,
shall have no portion or inheritance with Israel.
They shall eat the LORD'S food offerings as their inheritance.
They shall have no inheritance among their brothers;
the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them.

Deuteronomy 18:3-5

And this shall be the priests' due from the people, from those offering a sacrifice, whether an ox or a sheep: they shall give to the priest the shoulder and the two cheeks and the stomach. The firstfruits of your grain, of your wine and of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep, you shall give him. For the LORD your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons for all time.

Deuteronomy 18:6-8

And if a Levite comes from any of your towns out of all Israel,
where he lives—and he may come when he desires—
to the place that the LORD will choose,
and ministers in the name of the LORD his God, like all his
fellow Levites who stand to minister there before the LORD,
then he may have equal portions to eat,
besides what he receives from the sale of his patrimony.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12

When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.

Deuteronomy 18:13-14

You shall be blameless before the LORD your God, for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do this.

Deuteronomy 18:15-17

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, “Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.”

And the LORD said to me, “They are right in what they have spoken.”

Deuteronomy 18:18-19

“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.”

Deuteronomy 18:20-22

“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?’—when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

Main Idea

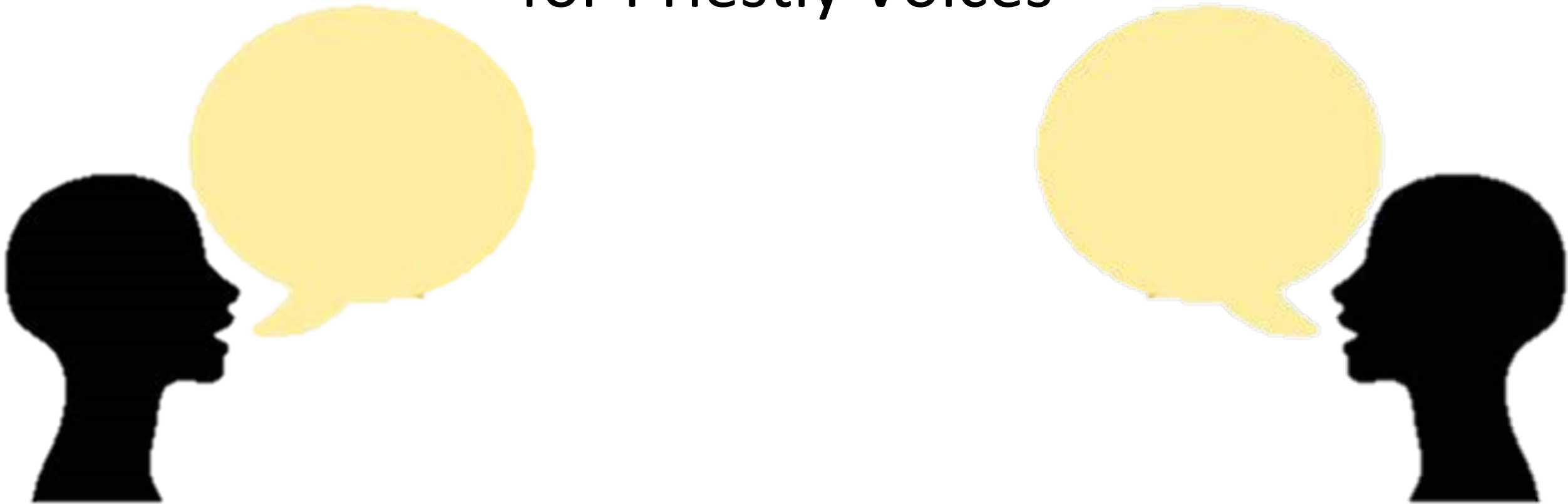
The Lord provides His people with designated voices to declare *His Word* and prohibits them from listening to the deadly voices of profanity.

Profane = characterized by contempt for God, unholy, pagan.

Whose Voice You Gonna Listen To?

Provisions

The LORD made provision
for Priestly Voices



Provisions for Priestly Voices

The LORD provided for a priesthood



Deuteronomy 18:1 and 5

The Levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi,
shall have no portion or inheritance with Israel...

For the LORD your God has chosen him and his sons
from all your tribes, to stand and serve
in the name of the LORD forever.

Deuteronomy 21:5

Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come near,
for the LORD your God has chosen them to serve Him
and to bless in the name of the LORD; and every dispute
and every assault shall be settled by them.

The priests were designated
by God to be His voice speaking
His Law to His people.

Deuteronomy 17:12

The man who acts presumptuously **by not listening** to the priest who stands there to serve the LORD your God, nor to the judge, that man shall die; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel.

The duty of the priest was to apply the Law; the duty of the people was to listen and obey.

They were not given a portion of the land because they would need to be dispersed throughout the nation in order to minister to the people.

Provisions for Priestly Voices

The LORD provided for a priesthood

**The people were to provide
for the priesthood**



Deuteronomy 14:27

Also **you shall not neglect the Levite** who is in your town,
for he has no portion or inheritance among you.

The LORD had provided for a priesthood by sanctifying the tribe of Levi, but the people would need to provide for the priesthood by providing for the priests.

Deuteronomy 18:3-5

And this shall be the priests' due from the people,
from those offering a sacrifice, whether an ox or a sheep:
they shall give to the priest the shoulder and the two cheeks
and the stomach. The firstfruits of your grain,
of your wine and of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep,
you shall give him. For the LORD your God has chosen him
out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the name
of the LORD, him and his sons for all time.

The Priest's Portion

Deuteronomy 18:3-5

And **this shall be the priests' due from the people**,
from those offering a sacrifice, whether an ox or a sheep:
they shall give to the priest the shoulder and the two cheeks
and the stomach. The firstfruits of your grain,
of your wine and of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep,
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of the LORD, him and his sons for all time.

The Peoples' Provision

Deuteronomy 18:3-5

And this shall be the priests' due from the people,
from those offering a sacrifice, whether an ox or a sheep:

**they shall give to the priest the
shoulder and the two cheeks
and the stomach.**

The firstfruits of your grain,
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you shall give him. For the LORD your God has chosen him
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you shall give him. For the LORD your God has chosen him
out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the name
of the LORD, him and his sons for all time.

Priestly Prerogatives

Deuteronomy 18:6-8

And if a Levite comes from any of your towns out of all Israel,
where he lives—and **he may come when he desires**—
to the place that the LORD will choose,
and ministers in the name of the LORD his God, like all his
fellow Levites who stand to minister there before the LORD,
then he may have equal portions to eat,
besides what he receives from the sale of his patrimony.

Current Application

1 Corinthians 9:13-14

Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar?

So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

1 Peter 5:2

Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness.

Provisions for Priestly Voices

The LORD provided for a priesthood.

The people were to provide for the priesthood.

The Lord has provided a priesthood.



It's you and I!

1 Peter 2:9

But **you** are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, a people for God's own possession,
so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who
has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Priesthood of All Believers

1 Peter 2:9

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Priesthood of All Believers

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We are designated voices of the gospel!

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But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**,

a holy nation, a people for God's own possession,

so **that you may proclaim** the excellencies of Him who
has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Provisions for Priestly Voices

The LORD provided for a priesthood.

The people provided for the priesthood.

The LORD has provided a priesthood.

The LORD has provided THE Priest



Hebrews 7:28 – 8:2

For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak,
but the word of the oath, which came after the Law,
appoints a Son, made perfect forever.

Now the main point in what has been said is this:
we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat
at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,
a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle,
which the Lord pitched, not man.

Whose Voice You Gonna Listen To?

Prohibitions

Prohibitions against profane voices



Prohibitions Against Profane Voices

The prevalence of profanity



Deuteronomy 18:9 and 12

When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations.

And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.

Deuteronomy 18:14

These nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do this.

Deuteronomy 12:31

You shall not behave thus toward the LORD your God,
for **every abominable act which the LORD hates**
they have done for their gods...

Profane worship predominated within the pagan nations and would remain prevalent among the people because they would fail to put the pagans out.

Prohibitions Against Profane Voices

The prevalence of profanity

The practices of profanity



Deuteronomy 18:9-12

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or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or
a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,
for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD.
And because of these abominations the LORD your God
is driving them out before you.

Profane Practices

When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. There shall not be found among

you anyone who **burns his son or his daughter as an offering,**

anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD.

And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.

Profane Practices

When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering,

anyone who **practices divination or tells fortunes**

or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD.

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a medium or **a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,**

for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.

Take Note:

All of these practices were oriented toward receiving counsel for life, especially in respect to the future.

Prohibitions Against Profane Voices

The prevalence of profanity

The practices of profanity

The peril of profanity



Deuteronomy 18:9-12

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for **whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD.**

And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.

To make yourself an abomination
to the LORD would be to put
yourself under His judgment.

Nothing could be more perilous.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12

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**And because of these
abominations the LORD your God
is driving them out before you.**

Prohibitions Against Profane Voices

The prevalence of profanity

The practices of profanity

The peril of profanity

The purging of the profane



Deuteronomy 18:9-12

When you come into the land that the LORD your God
is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable

practices of those nations. **There shall not be found among**

you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering,

anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes
or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or
a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,
for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD.

And because of these abominations the LORD your God
is driving them out before you.

Deuteronomy 17:2-5

If there is found among you, within any of your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, a man or woman who does what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, in transgressing his covenant...you shall stone that man or woman to death with stones.

Deuteronomy 13:5

So you shall purge the evil from among you.

Deuteronomy 17:7

So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

Deuteronomy 17:12

Thus you shall purge the evil from Israel.

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Whose Voice You Gonna Listen To?

Provisions

Provision of the Prophetic Voice



Provision of the Prophetic Voice

The LORD provided prophets



Deuteronomy 18:15-17

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, “Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.”

And the LORD said to me, “They are right in what they have spoken.”

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me

from among you, from your brothers—it is to him
you shall listen—just as you desired of the LORD your God
at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said,
“Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God
or see this great fire any more, lest I die.”
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The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me

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And the LORD said to me,
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One who would speak His Word
The LORD your God will raise up
for you a prophet like me

from among you, from your brothers—it is to him
you shall listen—just as you desired of the LORD your God
at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said,
“Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God
or see this great fire any more, lest I die.”
And the LORD said to me,
“They are right in what they have spoken.”

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me

from among you, from your brothers—it is **to him**

you shall listen—just as you desired of the LORD your God

at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said,
“Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God
or see this great fire any more, lest I die.”

And the LORD said to me,
“They are right in what they have spoken.”

To the one who will speak His Word!

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me

from among you, from your brothers—it is **to him**

you shall listen—just as you desired of the LORD your God

at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said,
“Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God
or see this great fire any more, lest I die.”

And the LORD said to me,
“They are right in what they have spoken.”

Even in their predictions, the prophets' message was a reiteration and application of God's Law.

So the Law was to be used as the key litmus test for prophetic authenticity.

Isaiah 8:19-20

When they say to you, “Consult the mediums
and the spiritists who whisper and mutter,”
should not a people consult their God?
Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?

To the law and to the testimony!

If they do not speak according to this word,
it is because they have no dawn.

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Deuteronomy 18:18-19

“I will raise up for them a prophet **like you** from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.”

Deuteronomy 18:18-19

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“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

And **whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.”**

What about false prophets?

Deuteronomy 18:20

“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.

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What about false prophets?

Deuteronomy 18:20

“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.

**This is still a stark warning
for our times!**

What about false prophets?

Deuteronomy 18:21-22

And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?’—when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously.
You need not be afraid of him.

What about today?

The prophetic voice is clearly
and confidently heard today
when God's Word is clearly
and correctly proclaimed.

In reference to future prediction,
we may confidently know now
that God is going to judge the
pagan and save His people.

Provision of the Prophetic Voice

The LORD provided prophets

The LORD provided THE Prophet



Deuteronomy 18:18-19

“I will raise up for them **a prophet** like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.”

Who is this?

It is most certainly Christ!

Peter quotes this passage in reference to Christ in his sermon in Acts 3, and Stephen does the same in his sermon in Acts 7.

Jesus is repeatedly said to be a/the prophet, and the apostle John directly ties Him to Moses the Law giver in John 1:17.

What does this mean for us?

Deuteronomy 18:18

“And whoever will not listen to my words
that He shall speak in my name,
I myself will require it of him.”

Jesus has spoken!

To whom are you listening?