

Our Brother and Prophet Named Jesus
Deuteronomy 18:18-19,
Advent Sunday IV December 21, 2014

Beloved of the Lord.....In our lesson today the prophet Moses refers to Jesus as a brother. Regarding our brother Jesus, one of the points I always try to teach our catechism students is this: Jesus is our Brother who stood before the Judge and interceded in our place. I explain to the students, "Imagine that you are guilty of murder. You have sinfully taken the life of another man, and the police catch you and bring you to stand before the judge. In the courtroom the Judge reads off all the charges against you, and then he slams down the gavel and says I JUDGE YOU GUILTY! "Because you are guilty of murder, and theft, and various other crimes too numerous to list, I sentence you to death." Yet just then there comes into the courtroom, your own brother. And your own brother says to the judge, I don't want my brother to die though I know he is guilty. Indeed I would rather suffer and die if only my brother can be spared. Dear judge please allow me to take his place. Let me suffer his punishment so that he can go free." And though the judge doesn't like the thought of the guilty being set free, he is so moved by the offer of the innocent brother, that he accepts the offer. The innocent brother is then taken to the gallows and hung until dead, but the guilty brother is forgiven and set free. In all truth dear brethren, that is what Jesus did for you and me. And God who is the judge of all, has accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. And this is why the Bible says, and all believers believe regarding God our Judge, "Though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid."

I. The prophet Moses, the Law of God, and Judgment Day. In our lesson today, Jesus then is both our Prophet and also our Brother. But in order to understand this we begin with Moses, a lesser prophet than Christ, but perhaps the greatest prophet in the Old Testament. God called him to be a prophet in the desert by the burning bush, so he would stand before Pharaoh and deliver God's people. In this sense Moses was a type of Christ.

While Moses is a great and notable prophet for many reasons, he is probably most famous for receiving the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai. Moses preached a lot of law and Moses also witnessed much of God's wrath against God's people who were breaking His law. It was then due to the sinful nature of man that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai. This account is told to us in Exodus 19 and 20. When the Israelites came to Mt. Sinai, we learn a fence was put around the mountain so no one could touch Sinai, for God said "whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death." This was holy ground. Likewise the people were to wash themselves clean in preparation for the Lord's coming, for God Himself would descend down upon the mountain. Verse sixteen and following say, "And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the

smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice." When all this happened the people were terrified by the Lord's presence. They knew they were sinners standing in the presence of holiness, and they knew they deserved to die.

God's giving of the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai is very similar to what Judgment Day will be like. Every sinner on the face of this earth who despised God's sacred Word will be judged for their sins. When Christ appears in the skies, it will be the day of reckoning for all who despised His sacrifice on the cross. This is even spoken of in our text this morning, for the Lord says "whosoever will not hearken unto My words which He shall speak in My name, I will require it of him." This is similar to what Jesus said to the Jews in John eight, "Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." Our salvation then, or damnation, comes down to whether or not we believe Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior from sin.

In Revelation 6:14 and following, the Second Coming of Christ is described this way...."the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" On Judgment Day no Muslim will be saying "Allah is great", nor will the Jehovah's Witnesses be able to deny any longer that Jesus is Almighty God. The Jews will not have Moses to justify them but Jesus and Moses will condemn them. Nor will any impenitent sinner deny their sin any longer. There will no atheist on Judgment Day either. Indeed every unbeliever will feel their guilt and shame and the utter helplessness of their soul to escape God's wrath. Every sinner will also know God's Words were true, and they should have listened to the Bible. In Revelation Jesus Himself tells us what Judgment Day is like for both believers and unbelievers. Jesus says in Revelation 21 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

When it thus comes to Moses, the Ten Commandments and the wrath of God, let us all understand God has the right to be angry with us for our sins, and He is good enough to warn us what will happen if we don't repent. Indeed the only way to escape this wrath is through the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, for Jesus said "He that believeth on Me is not condemned but has everlasting life." If then by the grace of God you truly believe and are able to see Jesus was that sacrifice for you, even your own brother, rejoice and be exceedingly happy. "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." God will not condemn you if you repent and put your faith in Jesus your Savior. But if secretly inside

your heart you are impenitent and not sorry for your sins, and you deny and do not believe that the blood of Christ cleanses you from sin, then I urge you to repent now before it is too late, for God in His wrath is indeed coming. First Corinthians six says, Don't you know "that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor [homosexuals], Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

II. The Prophet Office of Christ, which is the Gospel office. This is why we should find much comfort today in God's promise through Moses, "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." Moses himself knew a different Prophet, a greater Prophet was yet to come, and this prophet would come from God's chosen people, the Jews. This greater Prophet would even be a brother, a fellow Jew of flesh and blood, His words greater than Moses.

This prophet naturally is Christ Jesus the Lord. We remember Jesus is our Prophet, Priest, and King. How is Christ a Prophet? A prophet is God's representative, someone who speaks for God or is an ambassador for God, even the mouthpiece of God. Of Jesus the Lord said, "Unto Him ye shall hearken". This puts the words of that future prophet on a higher scale or plane, than Moses. This agrees also with what Jesus said later in the New Testament when He did indeed come in flesh and blood. Jesus explained, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." The way then to know God, can only be revealed by Jesus who came from forth from the bosom of His Father.

When the greater prophet Jesus thus speaks, Jesus is different from all other prophets before or after, because Jesus comes from the heart of God Himself, and so Jesus ONLY is able to reveal the heart of God Himself. When Jesus speaks, it is none other than God Himself in flesh and blood, who is opening up His heart to us, revealing to our soul His innermost desire. What is that innermost desire of God, that Jesus reveals to us? It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, the grace of God which comes to us, in, by, and through the blood of Jesus. For Jesus is not just the greatest Prophet who ever lived, but Jesus also the sacrifice and the priest who offered up to God the price of our sin. This Lamb then is worthy of all our love, for "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world."

Consider then this Prophet who has flesh and blood, indeed He is our Brother, for a very specific purpose, to shed His own flesh and blood. And since we so easily gloss over these words, that Jesus shed His blood to save us from sin, let us go for a moment to that cross, and mentally stand there at the foot of the cross for six long hours, while Jesus suffers and dies. Here now we are watching our own Brother suffer and die, taking our place, paying the price of our sin. As you stand there beneath the cross, so close you could touch His sacred feet, look upon His pierced hands. What do you see? There is

blood. Watch carefully one of those drops which breaks free, falling to the ground. Quickly reach out the palm of your hand and catch it. Look at the deep red hue of that one drop for a moment, meditate upon it. It is still warm because it just came from the life of all the living. But the Living is dying, and He is dying for you. What does this one drop mean to your soul? It means it is the will of Christ to save your soul by this blood. Its what Jesus wants with all His heart, for He came from the bosom of the Father. There is life and death in this blood. There is heaven and hell. There is torment and paradise. There is the wrath of God and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. There is grace for grace.

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” This Prophet indeed is far better than Moses, for Moses brings death but Jesus gives life. This Prophet does not say “you are condemned and you shall die for your sins.” This Prophet says “I will be condemned for your sins, so that you will be forgiven, justified, and set free.” This Prophet says “ye are clean every white by the Word spoken.” This Prophet has no angry words, not one word of condemnation, but all and only words of forgiveness, grace, remission of sins, peace and life everlasting. This prophet dies that you might live. He lives that you might never die. This prophet does not say an eye for an eye, or a tooth for a tooth, but this prophet says “where sin abounds grace does much more abound.”

In closing then dear believer, we need that prophet Moses and we need his law, but only so we flee to that greater Prophet named Jesus, “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.” All He wants from you is your faith, and even your faith is His gift and not your work. Believing not in your works, but on Him, you will hear no words of condemnation from God on Judgment Day, rather you will hear and see that the Judge is your own Brother, Jesus Christ the Lord – and all Jesus will have to say is this, “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” To which we say “Amen.”