

Deuteronomy Ch 18

Now he repeats the fact that the Levites weren't to inherit any portion of the land but rather their inheritance was the Lord Himself and they were to receive their portion of sustenance from the offerings of the people.

Vs1-4

God required a 10th of the peoples increase to be given to Him, He considered that as His, it never was the peoples as far as He was concerned and so when the people would hold back part of that 10% God considered it stealing from Him. That's why read what we do in the book of Malachi in regards to robbing God in the form of tithes, and of that 10th that He required it was to be of the best of their stock. And as I said earlier not the cast offs but it was to come straight off the top. And as the people would bring their tithes to the temple, the tribe of Levi would receive their allotted portions from those tithes. And so when you brought into the temple a sacrifice, be it of an ox or a bull or a lamb or whatever the priest would get the shoulder, the cheeks and the stomach. Now later on when Eli was the priest he had 2 sons who were serving with him and they would stick their meat hooks into the fire and pull out the tenderloins and the best portions of the meat. And if the people would oppose them, they'd order them out of the place and by their greed they began to cause the people to resent sacrificing to the Lord. And Eli didn't really correct their behavior though he spoke to them about it, but he didn't make them quit and so God dealt very harshly with them and ultimately his 2 sons were killed as a result of the judgment of God. And Eli hearing of the news fell over backwards in his chair and being heavy and 98 yrs old broke his neck, and so God dealt very harshly with Eli and his sons do to their greed and his unwillingness really to correct them. But these were the allotted portions of the meat and then also the 1st fruits of the grain and wine and oil and all.

Vs5

So those who were called of God to devote all of their time and attention to the ministry on God's behalf were to receive their support from the people.

Vs6-8

Now all priests were Levites, but not all Levites were priests and this isn't implying that any of them could serve as priests but they were allowed to assist the priests whenever they wanted. Because there were various cities that the Levites were stationed in and so obviously not the entire tribe of Levi lived in Jerusalem. But when a Levite wanted to travel to Jerusalem to minister at the temple he was allowed to do so and would receive an equal portion to those who were serving there full time. Even over and above whatever he had received from selling whatever he may've had to get there, to live there, that had no bearing on his wage as a minister to the Lord and to the people.

Vs9-11

Or one who seeks counsel from the psychic network or calls in for their tarot card reading.

Vs12

They weren't to consult or to become apart of any type of occultic activity. Rom 16:19 says "*I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.*" And back there in vs 10 where it says "soothsayer" or your bible might say, "an observer of times." What that's speaking of is astrology, and the use of horoscopes and all, they as the children of God weren't to be into or even curious concerning that stuff and we as the children of God are to steer clear of it as well. Paul the apostle warns that an upsurge of curiosity concerning these things will be an indication of the end times 1 Tim 4:1-2 "*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.*" And surely we've seen an upsurge in the interest of these types of things over the last few years with all the psychic networks and tarot card readings that you can call and get and these people are making millions of dollars off of people just dying to know what the future holds for them. But as believers you're to have nothing to do with those types of things no matter how alluring or intriguing they may seem, for a #of reasons. #1 To seek to know more than what the Lord has revealed to you by means other than the Lord is basically a refusal to acknowledge the sovereignty of God in revealing to you what you need to know. #2 A reliance upon these things corresponds with a lack of trust in the Lord for your life. And 3^{rdly} and primarily, because God said not to, He doesn't have to explain why, the bottom line is that He said don't do it and it's not ours to question His word. People who do these sorts of things are an abomination before Him. That's not my opinion that's what God says, as for me, and as for you we're told in vs 13

Vs13

Your bible may say "perfect", the word means "complete" or "whole-hearted" towards God. In other words there's not to be any place in your heart that's shared with any other thing, you are to be wholly God's. Now I'm not saying you aren't to love your wife or kids or your husband and things of that nature. But what I am saying is that You are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all of your strength and you are to have no other God's before Him.

Vs14

So they weren't to be doing things like the other nations who were seeking direction from all these diviners and soothsayers and witches and wizards, but He didn't leave them with out direction. If they needed more than what they could receive from the priests by means of the Urim and the Thummim they would receive that information from a prophet, Moses tells them here in vs 15.

Vs15-19

So in contrast to the Canaanite means of black magic and soothsayers they were listen to the Lords prophets. And each Prophet that God would raise up among them would be a fellow Israelite, and since he would only speak to them the words of God they were obligated to obey his words. And if they didn't God says here that He would require it of them, now this is an ultimate reference to Jesus Christ and Peter in the book of Acts ch 3 bears witness to that fact quoting this very portion of scripture in regards to Jesus. Stephen does the same thing in Acts ch 7

And this is the main scripture that stumbles the Jew in regards to Jesus Christ because they consent to this being a messianic referral very much so. But their problem comes in, in the fact that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, He claimed deity, they are looking for just an ordinary man "like Moses" one is in fact mighty in word and in deed, who will speak God's word to His people but not deity, not the Son of God, just a man.

Now there are other prophecies that testified that the Messiah would in fact be deity, but for some reason they don't see that, or if they do I don't how they reconcile them. Isaiah 7:14 *"The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."* Immanuel meaning "God with us" speaking of the deity of the Messiah, but the Jews aren't looking for the Son of God, they're looking for a man, and they will get that man, but unfortunately it won't be the Christ, it will be the anti-Christ and we just don't have time to get into the workings of all of that tonight. But it's tragic, Israel will embrace as their leader the very man who will attempt to destroy them and proclaim himself as God. Jesus said, *"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive."* But the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy was found in Jesus Christ who was mighty in word and in deed. Who ratified His endorsement of the Father through the mighty works that He did, who spoke the word of God to the people and gave them only what the Father had put in His mouth to say. Jesus said in His prayer that we have in John ch 17 in vs 4 *"I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."* And in vs 8 *"For I have given to them the words which You have given Me."* And we could spend considerable time on the many ways that Jesus fulfilled these scriptures and was the fulfillment of all that Moses only foreshadowed, but we won't so that I can be sensitive to your time.

But God put His word in the mouth of His Son Jesus Christ and He proclaimed it to the people, Jesus was the living word and that's why God doesn't speak to people any more the way He used to. Because He's already said all that He has to say through the person of His Son, Heb 1:1-2 *"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son."*

And whoever doesn't heed the words of God's Son and Prophet and Priest, it will be required of him in judgment. Jesus said in John 12:48 "*He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*" Now in regards to the text, how were they to discern those who came to them in the name of the Lord as to whether or not they were true, the test was simple, and there was a couple of ways.

#1 No matter what they said, if it happened or not, if they tried to persuade them to follow other gods, they weren't a true prophet sent to them from God.

2^{ndly} Vs 20-22

If the prophet hits the nail on the head 99 out of 100 times and misses once, he was never sent from God and the penalty is death. And the prophets wouldn't just prophecy long term things, that would be sort of a litmus test, sure I could say thus says the Lord, behold I will give you a sign, the virgin will conceive and bring forth a son. But when, it could be 400yrs from now, so how could you test that? But Isaiah also prophesied some immediate happenings in Israel, as you read right around the 36-37th ch of Isaiah you find out that there was a group of soldiers wanting to take the land and Isaiah prophesied and assured the king that not so much as 1 arrow would enter that city and that they would return from where they came. Now if even 1 soldier out of the entire infantry would have shot even 1 arrow towards that city or into that city rather, then all of Isaiah's prophecies would've been discredited and he would've been put to death. Now the odds of him being right were seemingly pretty slim, but the fact that he was right vindicated him and assured the people he was legit. So God gives us tools of discernment if we'll just heed them and be obedient to His word. There would be so much confusion alleviated from the body of Christ if people would simply read and obey God's word, it's so rich, and it gives us all the tools we need to abide in Christ and avoid deception. But you have to read it, and you have to apply it to your life.