



February 24, 2008

## *The Greatest Prophet*

Moses told the people during his farewell that there would be a time when God would send another prophet to them and they were to listen to him (**Deut 18.15**). Moses indicated the gravity of this prophet's work when he records God statements. ***"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. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."*** (**Deut 18.18-19**). This prophet of course was to be the hope of all mankind. This prophet was the seed of the woman that God spoke of in his imposition of consequences for sin (**Gen 3.15**). And it is this prophet that Isaiah spoke of in his writings. The coming of Christ was not in great physical appeal (***"...his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men"*** **Isa 52.14**) but in power to heal the nations or "sprinkle" those nations (**Isa 52.15**). Isaiah goes on to characterize Christ in such a manner as no other had been. ***"And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD"*** (**Isa 11.2**). When Christ was born there were those who spoke of him in such a way that his identity as the Messiah was unmistakable. John, speaking of Christ, and informing the people that he was not the Messiah, said of Jesus, ***"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."*** (**John 3.34**). Christ was the fulfillment of all things that God had planned in his desire to redeem man. Christ fits the characteristics of a prophet in that he performed all of the duties of a prophet and more. Christ, as other prophets, declared the word of the Lord. Christ, like other prophets, did not always foretell future events but was charged with helping others know what the word of the Lord was. Christ made this clear in his work on the Earth. In his prayer for his disciples, he states, ***" For I have given unto***

***them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me."*** (**John 17.8**). Christ also indicated that this was his duty as he confirmed his identity to the disciples that John sent to him. ***"Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached."*** (**John 7.22**). Christ was a prophet in the aspect of foretelling the things that were to come to pass. He foretold of the destruction of Jerusalem (**Matt 24.15-22**) his death (**Matt 20.18**) and the resurrection (**Luke 18.33**). There are other references for these statements in the Gospel accounts. Comparing the life of Christ with that of other prophets we find that Christ embodies all of their characteristics and more. We realize that Christ was the fulfillment of the plan to save all of mankind and so it is fitting that we find such all inclusiveness in his character work and power. Paul states, ***"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell."*** (**Col 1.18-19**). Christ is unique in the Bible in that he is the subject of the prophecies that were made concerning the coming Messiah and their fulfillment. John describes Christ as the word of God (**John 1.1**) and as such Christ embodied the character, nature and content of the words God commanded and spoke. This totality is not found in any other prophet and no matter how faithful others may have been they fall far short of the nature and work of Christ. The ultimate prophet, and ultimate judge, now calls for all of us to hear him and obey so that we can be with him for eternity.

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