

Deuteronomy II
Proper vs. Improper Ministering
Deuteronomy 18:1-22

I. INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

A. Theme of the Chapter

- i. Instruction
- ii. Obedience
- iii. Ministering
- iv. Worship

B. Usage of Words

- i. *“thou”*
 1. Used eight (8 x) times in seven (7) verses (Deuteronomy 18:4; Deuteronomy 18:9; Deuteronomy 18:13; Deuteronomy 18:14; Deuteronomy 18:16; Deuteronomy 18:16; Deuteronomy 18:21; Deuteronomy 18:22)
 2. Used to refer to the Children of Israel in the chapter.
- ii. *“thy”*
 1. Used thirteen (13 x) times in nine (9) verses (Deuteronomy 18:4; Deuteronomy 18:5; Deuteronomy 18:6; Deuteronomy 18:9; Deuteronomy 18:12; Deuteronomy 18:13; Deuteronomy 18:14; Deuteronomy 18:15; Deuteronomy 18:16)
 2. Used in the possessive sense, referring to the Children of Israel.
- iii. *“you”*
 1. Used one (1 x) time in one (1) verse (Deuteronomy 18:10)
 2. Used to refer to the Children of Israel in the chapter.
- iv. *“abomination”*
 1. Used three (3 x) times in two (2) verses (including one variant) (Deuteronomy 18:9; Deuteronomy 18:12)
 2. Used to refer to the worship practices of the former inhabitants of the land, as well as describe what those actions meant to God.

C. Usage of Phrases

- i. *“Thou shalt”*
 1. Used two (2 x) times in two (2) verses (Deuteronomy 18:13; Deuteronomy 18:14)
 2. Used to instruct the Children of Israel.

- ii. *“Thou shalt not”*
 - 1. Used two (2 x) times in two (2) verses (Deuteronomy 18:9; Deuteronomy 18:22)
 - 2. Used to admonish the Children of Israel to take great care of their actions.

II. THE INHERITANCE OF THE LEVITES (Deuteronomy 18:1-2)

- A. The Tribe of Levi (Deuteronomy 18:1)
 - i. No inheritance with Israel
 - ii. To eat the offerings of the LORD (Numbers 18:8-9; Joshua 13:14; 1 Corinthians 9:13-14)
 - 1. Made by fire
 - 2. His inheritance
- B. Their Inheritance (Deuteronomy 18:2)
 - i. No inheritance among the Children of Israel (Deuteronomy 10:9)
 - ii. The LORD to be their inheritance (Joshua 13:33; Joshua 18:7)
 - 1. The priesthood was their inheritance
 - 2. The office was their inheritance
 - 3. New Testament minister (1 Corinthians 9:13-14; 1 Peter 5:2-4)
 - 4. New Testament Christian (1 Peter 2:5, 9)

III. THE PROVISION FOR THE PRIEST (Deuteronomy 18:3-5)

- A. The Dues from the People (Deuteronomy 18:3; Leviticus 7:30-34)
 - i. To be given unto the priest and his sons
 - ii. From the sacrifices
- B. The First Fruits to be Given (Deuteronomy 18:4; 2 Chronicles 31:4-10; Nehemiah 12:44-47)
 - i. Of corn, wine, and oil
 - ii. Of the fleece of the sheep
 - iii. Shalt be given unto the priest
- C. The Priest to Minister in the Name of the LORD For Ever (Deuteronomy 18:5)

IV. THE MINISTRY OF THE LEVITE (Deuteronomy 18:6-8)

- A. To Minister at the Temple/Tabernacle (Deuteronomy 18:6-7)
 - i. Leaving the gates of the cities of the Israel (Numbers 35:2-3)
 - ii. Coming with a desire to (Deuteronomy 18:6-7)
 - 1. Minister
 - 2. In the name of the LORD
 - 3. Like all his brethren

4. That stand before the LORD
 - a. With a love for the house of God (Psalm 26:8; Psalm 63:1-2; Psalm 84:5, 10)
 - b. New Testament – the office of a bishop (1 Timothy 3:1; 1 Peter 5:2-3)
- B. The Provision of the Levite (Deuteronomy 18:8)
 - i. To be given like portions (Nehemiah 12:44; 1 Timothy 5:17-18)
 - ii. Beside the sale of his patrimony (inheritance from their fathers)
 1. The Levites had been given properties and cattle from the Children of Israel at the beginning (Numbers 35:2-3)
 2. The Levite in this passage had made a decision to leave and minister in the Tabernacle/Temple
 3. He had given up his former place to minister to the LORD
 4. Therefore any inheritance or property he had had before would have been sold and would have been used to sustain him in this new life.

V. IMPROPER WORSHIP / MINISTERING CONDEMNED (Deuteronomy 18:9-14)

- A. Not to Learn the Abominations of the Land (Deuteronomy 18:9; Leviticus 18:26-27, 30; Joshua 24:14)
 - i. Like the nations that were there before them
 - ii. Like the land (Egypt) that they had left
- B. Abominations to avoid (Deuteronomy 18:10-12)
 - i. Not to be found among them:
 1. Anyone that would sacrifice their son or daughter in fire to a god
 2. One that would use divination
 3. An observer of times
 4. An enchanter
 5. A witch
 6. A charmer
 7. A consulter of familiar spirits
 8. A wizard
 9. A necromancer
 - ii. Many of the above abominations were committed by more than one king in Judah and Israel after Solomon had been king.
 - iii. Saul sought help from a witch at the end of his life (1 Samuel 28:7-20; 1 Chronicles 10:6-14)
 - iv. Manasseh committed these atrocities (2 Chronicles 33:1-10)
 1. Hinnom is the valley that is south of the Old City of Jerusalem
 2. While the Kidron Valley lies east of the city, between Jerusalem and the Mt. of Olives.
 3. New Testament occurrences:

- a. Simon of Samaria (Acts 8:9-13)
- b. Damsel of Philippi (Acts 16:16-18)
- C. Admonition Unto Perfection (Deuteronomy 18:13-14)
 - i. To walk perfectly with God (Deuteronomy 18:13; 1 Kings 8:61)
 - 1. Example of Abraham (Genesis 17:1)
 - 2. Example of David (2 Samuel 22:33)
 - ii. To not be like the nations that they possess (Deuteronomy 18:14)

VI. THE PROPHET (Deuteronomy 18:15-19)

- A. From the Midst of the People (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18)
 - i. Like unto Moses (Deuteronomy 5:5; Deuteronomy 34:10; Acts 3:22-23)
 - ii. To be hearkened unto (John 1:45; Acts 3:22-23; Acts 7:37)
 - iii. To speak all the words of God (Deuteronomy 5:5; John 4:25; John 8:28; John 12:49-50)
- B. His Words to Be Heard (Deuteronomy 18:16-17, 18-19)
 - i. Historically the people did not want to hear the voice of God (Deuteronomy 18:16-17; Exodus 20:19)
 - ii. Just like they resisted when they heard the word from Jesus, and later when the leaders stoned Stephen (Acts 7:51-60)

VII. A FALSE PROPHET EXPOSED (Deuteronomy 18:20-22)

- A. The Speaking of False Prophecies (Deuteronomy 18:20)
 - i. Speaking in the name of God
 - ii. Speaking in the name of other gods
 - iii. These were to be put to death (1 Kings 18:19, 27, 40; Jeremiah 28:15-17)
- B. The Test of the False Prophet (Deuteronomy 18:21-22)
 - i. To know if they be of God
 - ii. The prophet would not ask them to follow other gods (Deuteronomy 13:1-5)
 - iii. If the prophecy followeth not (Jeremiah 28:15-17)
 - iv. Be thou not afraid of him
 - v. A warning by the Apostle John (New Testament) (1 John 4:1-3)