

Lesson X.

THE PROPHET LIKE MOSES

September 7, 1902

Deuteronomy 18: 9-19. Study Deut. 18: 9-22. Commit to memory vs. 17-19.

Read Acts 3: 18-26.

9 When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, ²or that useth divination, ³or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

12 For all that do these things ⁷are an abomination unto the Lord; and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

13 Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.

14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, ⁸hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

Revised Version—1 With thee any one; ²One that useth; ³One that practiseth augury; ⁴Sorcerer; ⁵A familiar spirit; ⁶Whosoever doeth; ⁷Is; ⁸Hearken unto them that practise augury; ⁹Prophet (with small p); ¹⁰Said.

EXPLANATION

Connection—The children of Israel went around Edom and turned north on their way to Canaan. They defeated Sihon and Og of the Amorites (Num. 21: 10-23), and encamped in the plain of Moab on the east of the Jordan, waiting to cross into Canaan, Num. 22: 1. Here Moses gave several addresses to the people, as recorded in Deuteronomy. (The name of the book means "the repetition of the law.") This lesson is a part of Moses' second address, which embraces chapters 5 to 26.

9. The land; of Canaan, just across the Jordan. Which the Lord giveth. See Gen. 12: 7; 28: 13. The abomination of those nations. Their idol worship was mixed up with very sinful practices, some of which are now mentioned.

10, 11. To pass through the fire; part of the worship of Moloch, a brazen image, in whose red hot arms children were placed. Useth divination; pretending to obtain a message or answer from a god by drawing lots. Observers of the times; seeking signs from the gods by studying the clouds, the entrails of animals, etc. The enchanter; who practised magic by muttering charms and strange words. A witch (Rev. Ver., "sorcerer"); who used drugs, herbs, or spells, to produce magical effects. A charmer; one who practised magical charms, such as tying a knot, in which was bound a blessing or a curse. A consulter; etc. The spirit was supposed to live within him and speak through him. A wizard; a man skilled in all such arts. A necromancer; one who pretended to hold intercourse with the dead.

12-14. Thou shalt be perfect; yielding to God a pure service free from idolatry. These nations; of Canaan, Num. 13: 29. Which thou shalt possess; whose land and cities they were to inherit, Deut. 6: 10, 11. God hath not suffered thee; to turn to heathen soothsayers and diviners.

15-17. A prophet; one through whom God would declare to the people His will. Like unto me; one of themselves, who could fully sympathize with them. Unto him ye shall hearken; and

15 The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a ⁹Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

16 According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

17 And the Lord said unto me, They have well ¹⁰spoken that which they have spoken.

18 I will raise them up a ⁹Prophet 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.

19 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.

not to sorcerers and soothsayers. In Horeb: one of the peaks of Mount Sinai. The Assembly; at Mount Sinai, where the law was given, ch. 9: 10. Let me not hear, etc. See Ex. 20: 18, 19. They have well spoken, etc. God was pleased with their reverence, but more pleased with obedience.

18, 19. Put my words, etc.; reveal to him His

will, to be made known to the people. This promise was fulfilled in a long line of prophets, and finally in Christ Jesus.

Whosoever will not hearken, etc. They were to



Serpent Charmers—Peloubet

hear and obey his message as from God. (Luke 9: 35.)

The connecting links between Jehovah and His people were the Kingship, the Priesthood and the Prophetic order. So eager was God to draw near to men that He made the king, the priest, the prophet, not mere political and religious officials, but channels of communication with Him.