The Biblical Unitarian Podcast - by Dustin Smith, PhD

Episode 317–"John's Use of Deuteronomy 18:19"

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Introduction

Yes, we are continuing our ongoing series that explores the many ways in which the Gospel of John illustrates Jesus as the prophet like Moses from Deut 18:15-22. This week's episode will closely examine Deut 18:19. The passage reads: "*It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him*."

In what ways does the Fourth Gospel portray the judgment of God coming upon those who refuse to listen to the words of Jesus, God's authorized prophetic agent? Who else is the recipient of God's judgment in the Gospel of John? And how does the Holy Spirit function in God's calling to account for those who do not listen to his son, Jesus Christ?

Let's find out on this week's episode of the Biblical Unitarian Podcast!

1. **Judgment is Issued Upon Those Who Reject Jesus' God-given Words**
    - *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the*

Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (Jn. 3:16-18)

- *For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,* (Jn. 5:22)
- *and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.* (Jn. 5:27)
- *I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world."* (Jn. 8:26)
- *If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.* (Jn. 12:47)
- *He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.* (Jn. 12:48)

2. **Judgment Upon the Ruler of This World**
    - *Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself. But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."* (Jn. 12:31-36)
    - *and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.* (Jn. 16:11)

3. **The Function of the Spirit as It Pertains to Judgment**
    - *But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send it to you. And when that one comes, it will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.* (Jn. 16:7-11)

In sum, the Gospel of John, in offering a detailed portrayal of Jesus as the prophet in whom Yahweh has placed his authoritative words, echoes the warning from Deut. 18:19. Yahweh will hold accountable those who do not listen to the words that he put into the mouth of Jesus, and this is displayed with several warnings of judgment that hang over the heads of those who reject Jesus' God-given mission. Even Satan, the ruler of this world, is judged, suggesting that he has rejected the words of Jesus, a prophet like Moses. We also observed that the Spirit is promised to come in an effort to continue the ministry of Jesus, which includes the calling to account in the judgment of those who refuse to respond with belief. These three points coalesce in the sheer importance given to the need to obey the words of Jesus that Yahweh put into his mouth, which points to Jesus Christ as God's authorized prophet.

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Thanks for listening to this week's episode!

Join us next week as we explore how Deut. 18:20 has influenced the portrayal of Jesus in the Gospel of John.

Please look forward to our next episode.

If you have enjoyed the podcast, please consider supporting us as we aim to promote the sound truths about the oneness and unity of God and the humanity of Jesus!

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