

Reading Response #1

Daniel Ribeiro
THE444: The Messiah
February 7, 2023

There have been plenty of prophetic scriptures and promises given to the people of God regarding the Messiah that would come to them and rescue them of their spiritual infirmities. However, some of them did not make it through to the canonization of the scriptures which now gave us the Bible, access to the word of God. One of the scriptures that was found with the dead sea scrolls in 1946 was Testimonia (4Q175).

In order for us to fully grasp on how God was continually promising his people the people, it would be necessary for us to look at second-hand texts other than the scriptures we have today because it also paints an important picture for us to know the context of the time, and how much of the prophetic language regarding the Messianic prophet.

In 4Q175, or better known as Testimonia, the context for the portion of text is the Lord speaking to Moses on His promise to raise up a prophet among them that was like their own people. The word that was given to Moses is quite literally found in Deuteronomy 18:18-19 in which it says "I will raise up for them a prophet like you among their own people; I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in My name, I Myself will hold accountable." Later on, it goes on to say that "a scepter shall rise out of Israel..." which is also mentioned in Numbers 24. If we were to look into the context of the scripture in Deuteronomy 18, the Lord was telling Moses that the nation that they will dispossess in order for the Israelites to inherit the promised land, are those who listen to and practice sorcery and divination, but He was not allowing the people of God to be found mixed among those people. In the light of that context, God was revealing to Moses that the Messiah would come to His own people looking as their own in order for them to learn how it is to be set apart and live holy before the Lord as they would be surrounded by people who claim to follow other deities.

The term eschatological means that it relates to the coming judgment, and what Testimonia/Deuteronomy 18:18-19 reveals about the eschatological prophetic is that He will speak and call out for the repentance of sins in order to follow the commandments. Towards the end of what the Lord told Moses, He explains that "anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in My name, I myself will hold accountable."

In the light of the scriptures that we have today, almost two thousand years after the ministry of Jesus here on this earth, we see that through his prolonged time he would call for the repentance of sins because the Kingdom of God was now at hand, and if they did not repent, they will perish. This is a fulfillment of what prophetic scripture said in Deuteronomy because Jesus was speaking on what God, the Father, had already appointed Him to tell.

Jesus claimed to be one with The Father, by saying that He was one with God and that He was God. In John 5, it explains that He was given the authority to judge He was One with the Father in heaven. This speaks true in light of what God said to Moses because He had said, "whoever does not heed to the words the prophet shall speak in My name, I myself will hold accountable."