

**Laws That Govern the Administration of Religion:
Some Concerns of Believers
Deuteronomy 18:09–22**

2. Concern 1:

***The detestable practices
and ways of the occult world***

a. The law: No detestable practices
of the occult world

- 1) Child sacrifice
- 2) Divination
- 3) Sorcery
- 4) Interpreting omens
- 5) Witchcraft
- 6) Casting spells
- 7) Mediums
- 8) Spiritists
- 9) Consulting the dead

b. The warning

- 1) These things make a person
detestable
- 2) These things arouse
God's judgment

c. The strong charge

- 1) You must be blameless
- 2) You must fear the judgment
of God that will fall upon those
who practice the occult

3. Concern 2:

***A permanent prophet to replace
Moses (a prediction of Christ)***

a. The declaration by Moses:
God will raise up
a special Prophet:
Listen to Him

9 When you enter the land the LORD your God
is giving you, do not learn to imitate
the detestable ways of the nations there.

10 Let no one be found among you
who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire,
who practices divination
or sorcery,
interprets omens,
engages in witchcraft,

11 or casts spells,
or who is a medium
or spiritist
or who consults the dead.

12 Anyone who does these things
is detestable to the LORD;
because of these same detestable practices
the LORD your God will drive out
those nations before you.

13 You must be blameless
before the LORD your God.

14 The nations you will dispossess listen
to those who practice sorcery or divination.
But as for you, the LORD your God
has not permitted you to do so.

15 The LORD your God will raise up for you
a prophet like me from among you,
from your fellow Israelites.
You must listen to him.

b. The work of the special Prophet

- 1) To be the mediator between God and the people
- 2) To fulfil the will of God
- 3) To be the spokesman for God, declaring the Word of God

c. The warning:

A person must heed the words of the Prophet (Christ) or face the judgment of God

4. *Concern 3: False prophets*

a. The law:

Must execute all false prophets

- 1) Any who proclaim a message other than God's
- 2) Any who speak in the name of another god

b. The way to tell

if a message is not of God:
The message or prophecy does not come true

c. The charge:

- 1) The false prophet speaks his own man-made message
- 2) The false prophet is not to be feared

16 For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."

17 The LORD said to me:

"What they say is good.

18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him.

19 I myself will call to account

anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.

20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

21 You may say to yourselves,

"How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?"

22 If what a prophet proclaims

in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.