

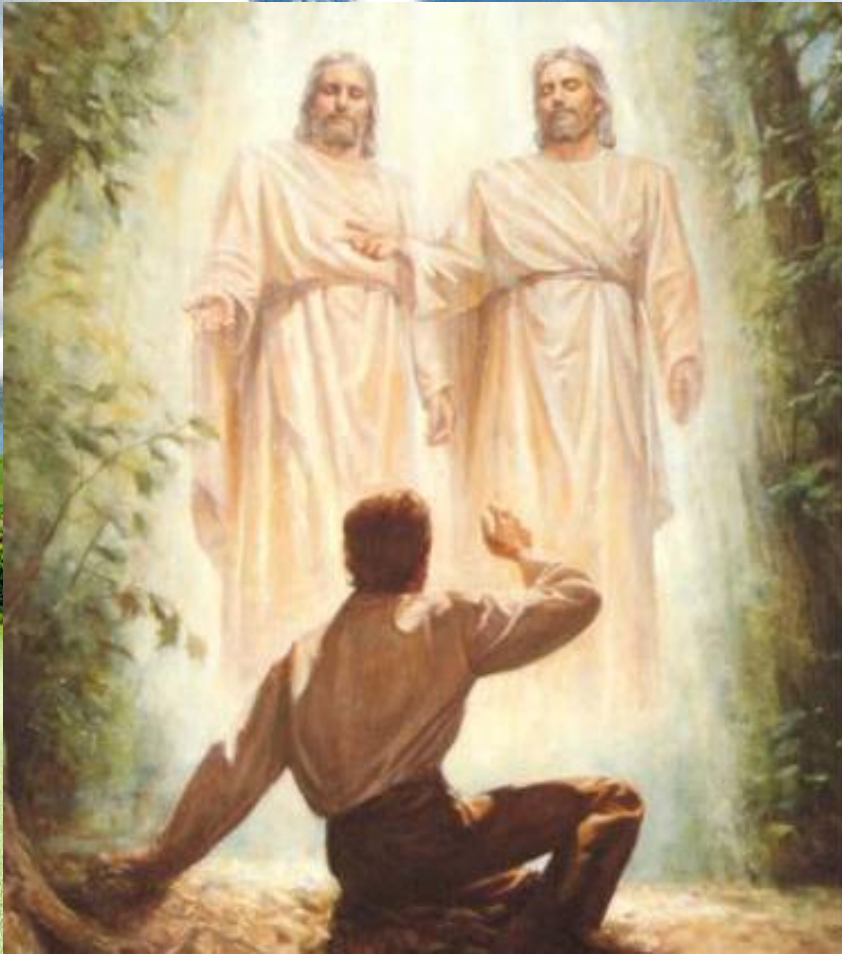
A landscape photograph featuring a bright sun in a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Below the sky is a green field, a line of green bushes, and a foreground of tall green grass.

I Saw A Vision

Seeing Visions

- Is *Heaven Is Real*, well, real? Do people have visions from God, like Paul explains in 2 Corinthians 12:1ff?
- It has become increasingly popular in certain denominational circles to dwell upon amazing revelatory experiences.
- Everything from choosing a spouse, to finding a spot in the parking lot is, from time to time, revealed to people through “visions” or dreams.

The Most Famous Vision



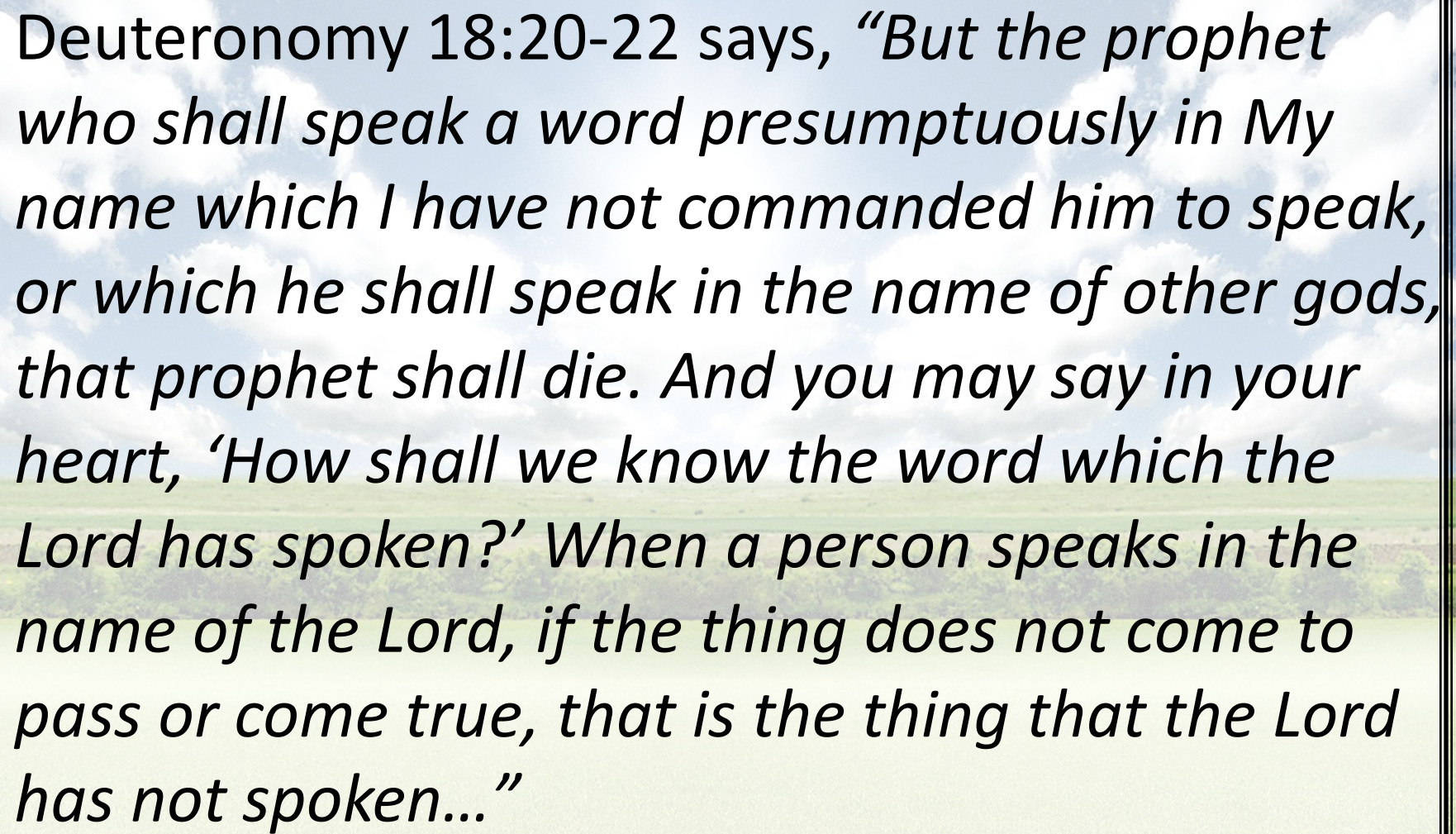
- Some religions, including the LDS, emphasize the role of direct revelation:
- *Doctrine and Covenants 9:8* reads, “But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right.”



**So, why are all these visions
conflicting?**

Observations

- Why do visions rarely lead someone to be saved in a scriptural manner?
- Why does Jesus fail to answer the most confounding religious questions?
- Why do so many “visions” produce a hearty “duh!” from those observing?
- Visions are always secondary to scripture (Galatians 1:6-8, Colossians 2:18).



Deuteronomy 18:20-22 says, “But the prophet who shall speak a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he shall speak in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. And you may say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the Lord has spoken?’ When a person speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come to pass or come true, that is the thing that the Lord has not spoken...”

Arguments

“How else do we gain insight into God without special visions? The apostles saw visions.”

- While it is true that apostles saw visions (Acts 10), that was for promoting truth in a time when complete Bibles did not exist.
- *“Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us...” (2 Peter 1:3).*

Arguments

“Paul needed revelation to understand the Gospel in Galatians 1:11-12.”

- Yes, but he also gives us an explanation of how we can gain the same insight (Ephesians 3:3-4).
- There is nothing that God is hiding from us (Jude 3), so why do we think we need visions and modern day revelation?

Arguments

“You can ’t tell me I didn’t see what I did!”

- It is unfortunate that reason and logic do not exist in the realm of the person who believes they experienced something in a totally subjective manner.
- Try to keep the conversation on the scriptures, which is a level playing field (Romans 10:17, Revelation 1:3, 1 Corinthians 4:6).



Sometimes personal experiences are misleading, exaggerated, or just plain false.