

Joshua heard this he urged Moses to forbid them, but Moses answered "Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them."

Numbers 12:6. In this verse we find the Lord rebuking Aaron and Miriam who had been jealous of Moses. In verse two they are quoted as saying "Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses, hath he not spoken also by us." In rebuking them the Lord said "Hear now my words, if there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all my house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth even apparently and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" This verse is not without its difficulties. Its theme is the exaltation of Moses as over against Aaron and Miriam. It would seem to be addressed directly to them. It is not stated that God would not speak through them, nor that he would. It says "if there be a prophet," implying the possibility of one of them being a prophet, but not necessarily the actuality. The word "your prophet" is somewhat difficult. The translation "a prophet among you," is probably correct, but not absolutely clear. The beginning of the next clause, with the word "the Lord" preceding a verb in the first person is also unusual. At any rate the word prophet would seem again to indicate one who speaks for God and it is stated that with ordinary prophets God does not speak mouth to mouth, as with Moses, but in dark speeches.

Deut. 13:2-6 (1-5). Here a test is given to show that some prophets were not to be listened to. It is stated that if a prophet or "a dreamer of dreams" "giveth thee a sign or wonder," even if the sign is fulfilled, if his statement has been that they should follow other gods, "that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death." Here the word prophet is used of one who is trying to lead the people straight, and who should be killed. It would seem to indicate one who claims to be speaking supernatural truth, regardless of whether his claim is true or false. Here also is a clear indication of the part that prediction plays in the work of the prophet. He predicts something to verify his