

is going to happen 300 years from now? Well this was said that Josiah was going to do this. It does not say way, but actually it was 300 years later before that happened. What's the great importance of a prophecy that something is going to happen 300 years later? Well, 300 years went by, dynasty after dynasty ruled in the northern kingdom, but in the southern kingdom the house of David had one king after another, some of them good, some of them bad, some of them in between. But the house of David continued, and eventually there came a king named Josiah. The southern kingdom was only a third ~~XXXX~~ as large in area as the northern kingdom, and about half as large in population. How would they ever be able to come up here to Bethel and burn men's bones on this altar? How could they ever do such a thing? In 200 and 250 years and more it would have been absolutely impossible, and then the northern kingdom was conquered and after the N. kingdom was conquered there came K. Josiah up into this area that was now largely desolate with no strong control in it, and he came in it and there he burned men's bones on what remained of this altar. It showed how God was going to continue protecting them, but Israel was going to have all these vicissitudes and perish over 100 yrs. before Judah did. But who would have known that when this prophet spoke? And after all it they had they would have said, what difference does it make what is going to happen 300 yrs. from now. But the prophet went on. So in the next verse (v.3) we read that the prophet gave a sign saying, "This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken, behold the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out." Here is a near sign to show that the distant sign is the truth. An immediate sign the people can see now