

Prophets I
 Second Class
 September 25, 1947

This is our second class in the prophetic books.

We considered last time certain introductory matters as to the purpose and methods of the course. Then we took up the general discussion of Roman Numeral I, Prophets and Prophecy, under which we were on A, the term Prophets. We noticed, first, that it was a unique institution; second, we noticed that the etymologies do not throw much light on the actual use of the word, and then, third, we began to examine the passages where it is used in order to find out in the one way in which you can get accurate information as to the meaning of a word in a line-- what it means: that is, what is its use in the context in which it occurs in the Scripture, and consequently, we noticed that the law of first occurrence, so called, does not apply in this case. If we want to make a law of it, we'd better put a defining clause with it, say---

Wherever the first occurrence of a word in Scripture is one which throws decisive light upon its meaning, in those cases the first occurrence of the word is of great importance. That is naturally expected. In other words, we want to find all the uses of a word and see what really throws light as to the meaning of a word, and in this case we do not have to take the time to look at all the uses in the Scripture and make an induction as to what it means but it so happens that the second instance is so clear that you can form a very definite conclusion as to what the prophet is and, of course, you would not want to do so without further examination of other passages for I am quite convinced that the more you examine other passages the more you will find a fit in with the of this word which is clearly shown in the second use of it. That, of course, was in Exodus 7:1.

And you notice that in Exodus 7:1 there is much reason to consider that we have a figurative use of the word Prophet. Now, what in this verse makes you think that we have a figurative use of the word Prophet and not a literal one? There are two indications, the one, as we pointed out, that the prophet, as you look at other instances, a prophet is one who had the relation to God, rather than