

## Prophets 5, continued

and so we have there a fourth term for a prophet used. Very clearly it was a prophet of whom they were speaking.. He is one who went and acted as God's mouth piece in passing on God's message and consequently you should notice from that reference a third indication of a parallel word to prophet. So those three words are other words which may be used. (Hebrew words repeated) Now, point No. 5, we will not linger long on that because we deal with it more later but it is this, that in the word of a prophet prediction is not primary but is important. You remember the man of God who came in the time of Gideon of whom we read in I Samuel 3:20 was one who brought a message that involved no prediction whatever regarding the future. It was entirely a matter of what God had done and what God's relationship was. He was a spokesman for God - a forthteller, not a foreteller. He was just as much a prophet as anyone who made great predictions about the future. Prediction is not primary in the word of a prophet but yet when we read that Samuel was recognized by evryone as being a prophet one of the principle ways they recognized it was that all his predictions came true, and in our other tests of a prophet in Numbers and Deuteronomy great stress was laid upon the fact that what he predicted would come true. So it is utterly wrong to say a prophet is simply a man who predicts the future but it is far worse to say that a prephet is merely a man who describes the present and is not . A prophet may make great predictions about the future. It is an important part of the work of many prophets, but not necessarily of all and not, certainly, the whole work of any prophet. Now we pass on to B - Capital B - The Purposes of Prophecy. And under that we note No. 1, that prophecy has reference both to contemporary and to succeeding generations. Prophecy has reference both to contemporary and to succeeding generations. The very fact that God had some of the prophets write their messages down showed that the messages were not given merely for that time but for later times as well. The fact that he had the prophet is I Kings 13 give a message which was not fulfilled for four hundred years after he spoke was a pretty clear evidence that he was speaking not merely for the immediate time but for later generations as well. So-prophecy the purpose of prophecy is not simply to satisfy curiosity. The purpose of prophecy is not simply