

that God is going to judge wickedness and unbelief and you will often find three-fourths of the verses would come under this category. It is one of the purposes which the prophet has predominantly before him, to pronounce God's judgment upon wickedness and unbelief. Now a fourth purpose of prophecy is to encourage the people of God and this also is one which you will find very frequently present in that which the prophet does, to encourage the people of God. In I Kings 13 you have read about the prophet who came from Judah up to the land of Israel and told the King of Israel that God was going to condemn him for what he had done in setting up these wicked altars, and told him that on ^{wicked} these altars where the King sacrificed before the golden calf men would offer human bones on these altars showing the complete destruction of the work for which they were set up, the complete profanation of these altars. Now that pronounced God's judgment upon wickedness and unbelief, but it also had a very definite purpose for the true Godly people who were standing around who were filled with misery because of the wicked things ~~which~~ the king was doing. It looked to them as if the worship of God was going to be completely rooted out of the land of Israel and the prophet says to them: "These altars are going to come to an end and God's Word is going to prove to be true after these wicked human acts have been completely destroyed." Think of the encouragement of it. To encourage God's people who are desiring to follow God in order that they may go forward with greater confidence and trust in the Lord. To encourage the people of God is something which you find stressed over and over and over in the statements of the prophets of the Old Testament. You will find that Isaiah 40 - 55 has probably half to two-thirds of its material having this as its outstanding purpose, to encourage the people of God.

Now a fifth purpose of prophecy often is to give information as to the proper action at a particular time. That, of course, was much more prominent in the speaking of the prophet proportionately than it is in that which has been preserved for us in the Scripture because we are not so interested today in exactly what the Israelites ought to do at one particular time. That is often interesting to us but to them it was extremely vital. God said to Moses: "Tell the people to go forward". God said to Moses "Tell the people to stop". God said to Moses: "Tell the people to march up into the land of Canaan and take it!" and the people refused. And Moses then said: "God says