

## Prophets 5, continued

your carcasses will all drop in the wilderness", and the people said: "Oh, we'll go, we'll go up and take the land" and God said "Tell the people they are not to go; they have lost their chance". There was a different message, just exactly the opposite thing for the people to do as God's will one day from what it had been the day before. A particular action, the proper action at a particular time, may vary tremendously, and so the purpose of a prophet in those days was often to tell exactly what the right thing was to do in a particular situation. We today often wish that God would speak to us in that way. "Shall I go this way or that way? Shall I accept this particular call or that particular call? Shall I study at this place or that place? Shall I take this course or that course?" We often feel that it would be a prophet who would say: "This is God's will for you. You do this one rather than the other one" it would be helpful but in these days God wants us to take the principles given by the prophets ~~given~~ in days of old, study them for ourselves and apply them ourselves and reach our own conclusions and, therefore, rarely, if ever, does He give that specific type of in these days which He gave in those days, but in those days that was fairly common, before we had the Scripture as a guide - as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

Then a sixth purpose of prophecy is to reassure or to convince of God's reality and of His control. . To reassure or to convince of God's reality and of His control. Some one may say: "Well this is just a subdivision of encouragement . It is difficult indeed to tell what would go under that head and what would go under this. This is perhaps a more specific way of saying that , but it is something which is vital in the acts of a prophet - to convince of God's reality and His control and this would refer not only to encouragement but also to judgment.

And then a seventh purpose of prophecy is to authenticate a messenger of God

This is, you might say, a minor purpose as one which occurs less frequently yet it does occur in some of the acts of the prophets. To authenticate a messenger of God so that when that particular messenger comes people will see that he is acting and will know that he is indeed God's