

## Prophets 8

together constitute in my opinion an absolute proof that the words of the man of God in I Kings 13 presented a knowledge which could only come from God, Himself, a knowledge which could only come from one who had such a knowledge of the future as would have impossible to any mere human being. Mr. ---? (Question of student) Well in this case, Josiah was told that this prediction had been made. I'm not sure whether he was told before he fulfilled it or after but he was right there doing that sort of thing and when he came to that particular place he was told, "This is the tomb of the man of God who made this prediction, which you are even now in the / ."<sup>act of fulfilling</sup> He was aware of the prediction, but all these elements enter into it and show that it is a remarkable authentication of the fact that when this man came up there and said, "God said this is contrary to His will, this construction of an altar like this," that he was actually speaking from God. Now right at this point perhaps it would be as good a point as any other for us to take just a few minutes to look at this account in I Kings 13 and to note some of the other things in the chapter, which throw light upon the nature of the work of a prophet. Mr.---? . Yes.A very good question. And that, of course, will belong to our next point, The True and False Prophets, and The Tests of a Prophet. We might go on to our next point and discuss those in detail but I think instead of that we will just run through the chapter and note in passing certain things that come out, and that will be one question we' ll be interested in. We note that the chapter begins with this man from God coming from Judah to Bethel and he comes up there out of Jidah to Bethel where the king Jeroboam is standing by the altar to burn incence and the man stepped up and he cried against the altar and here he gives this prediction: He says, "Behold a child shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee." Now what is the purpose of the prophet thus far? Well, we'll say of course his purpose is to be God's mouthpiece and to that which God desires done, but why is it that God desires this to be done? Certainly to pronounce God's judgment upon wickedness and unbelief is a very vital part of it, probably the outstanding feature. It is not to reveal truth to God's people. Perhaps to some extent you might say exhorting to do the known will of God would enter into it. It is an assurance that God's judgment is against evil and consequently it would be to the people standing by something of an exhortation to obey God's will . Pronouncing God's judgment upon wickedness and unbelief would be the specific purpose