

## Prophets 8

of it, but certainly the next purpose that we mentioned would enter in. To encourage the people of God. Here are the people of God and they see the king of this great kingdom which has broken away from Judah and he is putting up the golden calves and burning incense before them and they who worship God are given the assurance God is not through. Jeroboam is on the throne; Jeroboam is doing these things but God says the house of David which God has established is going yet to continue and have a king who will have sufficient power to come right up here and destroy these things. That would be a great encouragement to the people of God, wouldn't it? So to encourage the people of God would enter very definitely into it. Now to give information as to the proper action of the particular time would not enter into this particular act. It would be rather to exhort to do what knew was right than to give any particular new information.

Now the sixth purpose of - Reassuring and convincing of God's reality and control certainly would also be in play here, both with the righteous, who would be reassured that God is going to continue to control and that He will put an end to this wicked worship and the wicked shall be assured that though they are now in control, their control is to come to an end. Certainly it would reassure of God's reality and control by mere making of such a prediction, in this very dignified and powerful way. Then, of course, to authenticate a messenger of God beforehand, this particular statement would not authenticate to the people standing there the fact that this was a messenger of God but to the people three hundred years later this would give them a marvelous evidence that this man had spoken from God and that what he said was true and that God was one whom they should follow and obey. So that for the people three hundred years later it was a marvelous authentication of the other portions of the message which the man gave, but then we find that the question would immediately be in many people's minds, "Well, are we going to have to stay here three hundred years to find out whether this is true or not? How do we know whether this man is speaking from God? We can't wait that long to know if it is right." That, of course, is where our present prophets have a great advantage. People who claim to predict the future today usually predict far enough ahead that by the time it comes to pass it's forgotten that they made the prediction and so they don't injure their reputations by the fact that they have made that prediction and if they hit a thing right one out of ten they that all along for the next fifty years and urge every-