

## Prophets 8

body to buy their very expensive service of advice whether it be financial or political because of their marvelous knowledge of what is going to happen and they don't say anything about the many cases they predicted that didn't. People's memories are short and they forget how very bad their advice is. I remember seeing an advertisement of a financial service which will tell you--it is one of the best known and best recognized financial services in the country. For a very high fee they will tell you what stocks to buy and what to sell and when to do it and many of our best/and finest investment houses use this service and think very highly of it. So far as I know it is a very excellent service but this particular service right in 1929 at the very top of the boom said that things were just beginning and were going much higher and everybody should buy right then and there is another one equally good which at the very bottom of the depression said, "Things are going a great deal lower"; but those things are forgotten and today we see an advertisement and find people spending hundreds of dollars to get their advice which probably is as good advice as you can get from human sources but they make their mistakes. Now do we have to wait three hundred years to find out if this prophet is really speaking from God? Well, he did something more. Verse 3 says he gave a sign the same day. He went right on. He said, "Now you don't have to wait three hundred years to see if I am speaking from God. I'm going to give you something that you can find out much sooner. He said, "This is a sign the Lord hath spoken. Behold, the altar shall be rent and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out." Now there's a remarkable thing to say. Here's this altar standing there with a fire on it and the king of Israel burning incense and a man steps up and says, "This altar is going to be torn and the ashes that are on it will be poured out." Supposing that President Truman is about to throw the first baseball into, to start a big series game and somebody says, "Well, behold, that ball is going to explode in the air before." And somebody says, "What a fantastic thing to say!" This, of course, isn't quite so fantastic, because an altar can be rent. That is not a thing which requires a miracle. The miraculous element of it is the time of it, but you take any rock, any stone thing and you put a big fire on it and if you've ever done much camping you know that once in awhile you will hear a sound as if a gun went off and that rock breaks right in two. You get it heated and it's heated differently in different parts. Such a thing does happen once in awhile but it 's mighty hard to predict exactly when it's apt to happen. It's