

Prophets 9

he tries to take them over. If he can't end your work, he'll try to join your work and try to get you to work with him in such a way that he can cause the ends of your work to be for his purposes instead of for God's purposes. And so he shows a very friendly attitude and now here's a fine friendly attitude on the part of the king; isn't it wonderful. The king is just about to really receive the truth. Let's go to his house and be with him. But in this case the Lord has already given a specific message to the prophet. Here we have our fifth purpose of prophecy--to tell the prophet a particular action of the particular time. The Lord had said to him, "Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest," and so the prophet said to the king, "If thou wilt give me half thine house I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place." The prophet was going to obey the Lord and not going to break the Lord's word that he should not have fellowship with the people in this place which was now turning so plainly and clearly against the Lord's will, and so the prophet went another way and started to go back to Bethel in another direction and then you have't yet read in the Hebrew the rest of the chapter, perhaps it would be better if we left the discussion of the rest of the chapter till another time. There are things in it we ought to discuss, but I think we will perhaps leave it until another time instead of going on here and take up Section D. True and False Prophets. True and False Prophets. This is Capital D. True and False Prophets. We have just discussed C, which was the part played by prediction in prophecy. Now under this heading then, we make No. 1, False Prophets, and under that a, False prophets are found at many periods, and certainly we have many instances in Scripture and you doubtless are familiar with them from your own study and from our course in Old Testament history in which we touched upon some of them so we won't take much time on them. We mentioned the situation when Moses met the Egyptians who claimed they could give as good signs as he could give. They were not prophets in the true sense. Prophecy was an unique institution; but yet they were imitating it to some extent. We find that in Daniel's day we had the prophets of the Chaldeans who claimed to predict the future and to solve mysteries. They were not prophets in the true sense. They were imitating certain features of the work of the prophet. We have in Israel the prophets of Baal. These were not prophets in the true sense but they were people who were imitating what the prophets did in relation to God. They were gathering together in large groups exhorting to obey Baal and devoting themselves to the service of Baal. The false