

Prophets 10

come to think of the prophet and the unclean spirit in the same category. "And it shall come to pass that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live for thou speakest lies in the name of the Lord: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth. And it shall come to pass in that day that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall he wear a rough garment to deceive; but he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman," showing the depths of degradation into which prophecy sank in general reputation because of the number of people who pretended to be prophets who were not, and who aped and imitated the true prophet. Certainly there were many then imposters as prophets in the old time and certainly there are many who are imposters in the modern program of prophets, that is, not the multitudes for God who take the message God gives directly to them and pass it on but those who are supposed to take what God has revealed in His _____ and pass it on. there are many of them who are imposters and men who are deluded and great is the responsibility on us to make sure that we do not slip into either one of these two categories. But, of course, the people of the Old Testament had a responsibility much more difficult than we have in testing the prophets. We, of course, have the Scripture, we have God's revelation, we have His finished word and we can take any problem and go to His revelation and study it and see not only what is true and what is not true but what is important, what is the proportionate emphasis which He gives the matter. We can know/^{that} that which is vital will not rest upon a disagreement over one disputed verse, or one or two passages, but will

but the people in the olden days before the revelation was complete, at that time when God was sending men into the world who received His message directly from Him, had the tremendous responsibility of deciding - Is this man a true prophet of God or is he not? A tremendous responsibility. And so we must go on to that which is only historic interest to us but was of vital interest to them. No. 2. One was false prophets, No. 2 is Tests of a prophet, and the few passages which deal with the tests of a prophet are in Deuteronomy 13: 1-3 and Deuteronomy 18: 18-22. In those passages we have--those are the main passages an