

## Prophets 11

And so we have the first test of a prophet which is clearly brought out in these and other passages, No. 1, whether he claims to be a prophet of God. I think that is very important to recognize. A true prophet is not someone who doesn't know he is a prophet, and he isn't someone who thinks he is prophesying for an idol and actually is God's messenger. A true prophet claims to be a prophet and claims to be a prophet of God. A prophet is God's mouthpiece, God's spokesman; he knows he is God's spokesman. If a man comes up to you and hands you a little yellow piece of paper and says, "Here's a telegram for you," and the man has no uniform on and the telegram is not the official Western Union or Postal Telegraph blank, you say, "What makes you think this is a telegram for me? How do I know that this is genuine?" You expect that the man who brings you a message from the telegraph company will wear the uniform and will have the official blanks in his hand. When somebody phones you they don't simply say, "Mr. So-and-so, a message for you from \_\_\_\_\_, Montana," but they say, "This is Western Union." They declare that they are the representative of the telegraph company and we read in these passages that when a man prophesies in the name of an idol, when he says, "I am a prophet of Baal," or "I am a prophet of Dagon," or when he comes and gives you some mysterious matter which he claims that he has worked up out of his own head, you are not to say, "He is a true prophet of God, but he doesn't know it." That's contrary to the whole Old Testament teaching regarding what a prophet is. A prophet is one whom God has commissioned to be his spokesman and he knows he is God's spokesman and he speaks for God under God's direct command, so that is a means which will rule aside a great many of those in ancient times who claimed to be prophets or who people thought were prophets, that they did not come and say, "I am a prophet of the Lord; thus has the Lord said. Here is His message." That would already narrow your field of select \_\_\_\_\_ and of course in modern times you will find that you are apt to get letters from--like I got one yesterday from, I guess it was Mr. J. D. Westing of somewhere in Illinois who gives his discoveries on mental power and unitary force whereby all the, all the forces in the universe can be brought into your control if you will simply gain this unitary force and send \$3.00 for the book, which is the first approach to the matter, or you may get a letter from the man out in, is it Idaho?--where \_\_\_\_\_ having them harnessed in the \_\_\_\_\_ force of the universe and all they have to do is send him a few