

## Prophets 11

dollars and he will tell them how they can become masters of every problem in their lives and they say thousands of people have sent money to do this. He is very definitely--neither of these men is a true prophet of God. That is very plain. We have no right to take the queer ideas of somebody's mind and say, "God is speaking to him." God doesn't speak in that way. When God speaks, He tells us He speaks. He speaks through the messengers whom He has commissioned as His spokesman and of course in these days He does not speak directly; He gives His direct speaking in connection with the writing of the Scripture and now we have that as our guide, and as our book of , so that this first sign was very helpful in days of old. They'd say, "Come and hear this prophet. It's wonderful what he tells us. He will solve all the problems of your life." "What kind of a prophet is he?" "Well, he says Baal has revealed all this to him." Well, he's not a prophet of God. Put him out. Or "He doesn't say whom he represents, but I like what he says." Well, he may have some good ideas but he is not a prophet of God.

No. 2. In these two passages at which you have looked there was stressed a second indication of whether a man is a true prophet, and that was his ability to give signs. It doesn't say that if a man doesn't give wonderful signs he is not a prophet. It certainly doesn't say that, but it does say that if a man claims to give a sign and the sign doesn't work out, there is pretty good proof he is an imposter. Deuteronomy 13: 1, 2. If there arise among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams and giveth thee a sign or a wonder and the sign or wonder come to pass, wherof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known and let us serve them, thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet. Here is one who even passes this step, who gives you signs but is not a true prophet because he is speaking for an idol rather than speaking for God. So that this is not a conclusive test, but it is one which we find stressed in many places. In Exodus 4:8 the Lord says to Moses, It shall come to pass that they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, they'll believe the voice of the latter sign. He gave Moses the power to perform certain supernatural acts which were to indicate that he was a true spokesman of God. Certain of the prophets were given this special power. In the case of other prophets we have no indication of any such power having been given them. We find in Isaiah that Isaiah was given the right to offer to perform a sign. We have no indication that Isaiah