

## Prophets 11.

ever did perform a supernatural sign, but on one occasion we know that he was given the right to make such an offer. We find it in Isaiah 7 where he made a wonderful promise of comfort and deliverance to Ahaz and Ahaz showed by his faith that he was utterly contented with what Isaiah had said, and moreover the Lord spake again to Ahaz saying Ask thee a sign of the Lord, thy God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above. Here was an indication. "Ahaz, you don't believe Isaiah is a true prophet. You don't think you can trust his word. Well, ask for a sign, in the depth below or in the height above." Why didn't Ahaz say, "Well, let's see the sun turn purple and then turn into orange and then back into its regular color," or some such sign as that. Well, he was too skeptical or too incredulous, too indifferent even, to bother with anything like that. He didn't ask for a sign and no sign was given. But he was given the offer of a sign. "Ask for a sign in the depth or in the height above," but Ahaz did not ask, so here was again as in the case of Moses the offering of a sign as a means of accrediting a prophet. We had it in I Kings 13, you recall. In I Kings 13 you remember that it said that the prophet made a wonderful prediction three hundred years ahead and then he said, "Here's the sign for you. Here's something right now. This altar is going to be rent and the ashes pour out," and that happened right then. There was a sign, a marvelous sign, which was given of the fact that he was God's true prophet. Now in II Thessalonians 2:9 we find a warning against taking this as the conclusive evidence that one is a true prophet of God, even as we already had that warning in Deuteronomy 13: 1 and 2. In II Thessalonians 2:9 we read that one is going to come whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders and with deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish because they received not the love of truth that they might be saved, so there is one predicted to come who will be able to work wonderful signs and yet whom we are not to follow. Signs are not a conclusive proof that one is a true prophet, but it is a method of attestation which God occasionally gave and He gave it to His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He said, "If you will not believe the words that I speak," He said, "Believe me for the works' sake, that I do."

Now, No. 3. A test which is given in Deuteronomy 18, vv. 21 and 22. In Deuteronomy 18: 21-22 we find that when Moses had promised that they were not to be left without guidance in the future but were to have a succession of prophets who would explain God's will to them