

Prophets 12.

God having specifically talked to him in such a way that it became quickly understood that he was one to whom God gave His message to pass on. Elisha was one day plowing and Elijah came by and Elijah took his mantle and threw it over Elisha and Elisha ran after him and he said, "Let me go and say good-bye to my family and I'll come right with you" and Elijah said, "What are you talking about? I haven't done anything to you", and Elisha said, "Well, come back here and have some of the ox and we'll have a feast. I'm going to kill the oxen. I won't need them any more. I'm going to go and follow you." And so Elisha began his work. Elisha understood that Elijah had called him to be a prophet and Elijah was doing what God had commissioned him to do at Mt. Carmel. Doubtless Elisha had a pretty full understanding of what it all meant or it wouldn't have been such a simple matter to have called him. But there's a record of a specific call in the case of Elisha, such as we do not have in the case of Elijah. Amos tells us in Amos 7:14 that ^{as} he was tending the flocks and carrying for the sycamore trees the Lord spoke to him and said, "Go prophesy to my people Israel. He said, "I wasn't a prophet. I wasn't the son of a prophet. I had no connection with a prophetic group whatever but the Lord spoke to me and the Lord said, 'Go prophesy to my people Israel.'" And so Amos, in Amos 7:14 says that he has received a specific, supernatural call from God to become a prophet. Isaiah in his 6th chapter tells us of an experience which as we read it, it seems to us must be the beginning of his prophetic work. There are some who think ^{of Isaiah} who think that since we have five chapters first before we get to that sixth chapter it must be that that chapter represents a vision God gave him after his work was begun. I do not think it necessary to reach that conclusion simply from the fact that we have five chapters in the book previous to this sixth chapter. It seems to me that probably this is an account of the original account of Isaiah, to become God's prophet. I cannot say absolutely because of the fact that it is the sixth chapter, but in the case of Jeremiah in his very first chapter he tells us that God said to him, "Go and be my prophet and do what I tell you and speak the words I put in your mouth," and Jeremiah said, "I'm a child and I can't speak," and the Lord said, "Don't say 'I'm a child'. Don't say you can't speak, because before you were born I knew you and I called you from before your birth in order that you should be my prophet." And now He gives him this specific call, not of Jeremiah's choosing, not of Jeremiah's desire but of God's desire that Jeremiah shall be His messenger.