

Prophets 13.

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Then, of course, there are cases in which we have no account of a call having been given at all, such as in the case of Elijah, in the case of Daniel and in the case of many unnamed prophets; in the case of certain writers of the minor prophets also. We just have no evidence. We have no right, then, to lay down a law, a prophet must be , because when we have so many cases we are entirely justified in saying if we want to, we think probably he always did but I would put a very definite question mark. We don't know. Yes? (Discussion with student) And then, c. is the cessation of prophecy after the Old Testament period and for this point I have three references, and if I had the Bible which was used when the King of England was crowned I could read you the three references out of it, but they are not in my Bible here. They are I Maccabees 4:46, I Maccabees 9:27 and I Maccabees 14:41. Now you are justified in saying immediately, "What right do you have to quote from the book of Maccabee in order to give evidence on doctrinal truth and I say immediately, "Absolutely none," but I am not quoting these to give evidence on doctrinal truth but to give historical evidence as to a historical point and the first book of Maccabees is quite widely recognized as being an excellent historical source, and in the book of Maccabees which is an account of the conflict of the Jews with the Syrians who were trying to destroy their religion and to Hellenize them, in that book we find at four different places that something was done and done in such a way as to show that it was the understanding of the people there that there were no prophets at that time. We find them facing a difficult problem and saying, "We'll do it in this way forever or until a true prophet comes to tell us to do differently. We find this attitude taken in three different instances in Maccabees and thus it is historical proof that the people of Israel at the time of the Maccabees recognized that God had not in their generation called a prophet. Prophets ceased with Malachi and there were no more prophets until the beginning of Christianity, when God again called a prophet in connection with the giving of the New Testament revelation. Now I didn't bring over a copy of the Apocrypha with me this morning so I can't bring you these three references. You can easily look them up. There is, of course, a copy of the Apocrypha in the library and, by the way, I might say that it would be well worth your having a copy of the Apocrypha. There is valuable material in it that is of interest to anyone. They are not harmful books. They are good books like Pilgrim's progress, but they