

## Prophets 13.

in one case because the ten commandments were given in that way. All the people of Israel heard the ten commandments given. We know that in I Samuel 3:8-9, Samuel heard the voice of the Lord and it was so definitely external that he thought that it was actually Eli speaking to him. There was an external voice, such a real voice as when one of us hears another one talking to him. Just as real a voice is given here in this external voice to the prophet. That is, of course, in a way, the simplest method of revelation. In another way, it is not so simple because are never absolutely simple, but it's just as easy as to think of

## Prophets 14

could cause sound waves to come into the air which would give sounds to our ears exactly the same as when one of us is using the mouth that the Lord has given us. And so this external voice is certainly nothing at all unbelievable. It is something which does not enter into our experience in this age but it is something which we have no difficulty in imagining as having occurred at certain times, but did God always speak to the prophets by means of an external voice? Was that always the way that He spoke to them? Did He, for instance, ever use method small b., the internal voice by which, of course, I mean that there were not sound waves in the air which came through the prophet's ear and caused the ear to carry a message to the brain of the prophet but that words entered in to the prophet's mind by God causing the words to find a direct access to his brain without having to pass through the channel of the physical ear. Was there ever a time when God gave a message to a prophet in words that way but directly to the prophet's mind, what we would call internal voice? I believe we had a good example of it not so long ago when we read about Isaiah 7, how the prophet came to speak to the king and the prophet had a message which God had given. God said, "Go down to such-and-such a place and there you will find King Ahaz and give King Ahaz a certain message," and Isaiah went down and gave Ahaz the message. Then we read Then the Lord spoke again to Ahab saying, and then the prophet continued the message which is a message from the Lord to the king but a message which was not part of the original revelation to Isaiah. In the situation there God gave him a further message. You recall that in