

## Prophets 15

So although the mode varies, it is always definitely understood to be a message received from God and passed on; that is the vital thing about the prophet or the spokesman from God, one who is not talking for God, not a lawyer, but a messenger, one who receives God's message and passes it on. A prophet may also act as a lawyer at times. We may, as ministers we may present arguments but/<sup>work of</sup> the prophet as a prophet is the work of receiving God's message and passing it on, and that brings us to a very important note in connection with this. This statement which I have made about the definite consciousness is something which we must clearly differentiate as referring to the prophetic revelation, not to the entire prophetic writings. That is, the books of the prophets tell us, "God gave this message." Here God presents a message and the prophet passes it on but they also contain material which is what the prophet observed, what the prophet heard from someone else, what the prophet thought, what the prophet prayed to God. Those are not a message which the prophet received from God. Those are something which the prophet observes, hears, discusses or prays and they are different from the prophetic revelation in the sense of this message that God has given the prophet by these various modes. (Question from student) Yes. This refers to the prophetic revelation, not to the entire prophetic writings. I think that covers it. This refers to the prophetic revelation, not to the entire prophetic writings. I think that is a very important idea, extremely important in our interpretation of the prophetic books. It would be entirely possible that God should have given us prophetic books which He had dictated every word of. It would be entirely possible for Him to <sup>us</sup> give/books which contain only the message He gave the prophets to pass on. Some of them possibly are that way, but in most, if not all of the prophetic writings we find accounts which are not the message God gave the prophet but the account of the circumstances surrounding it or of the reaction of the prophet to it. Thus we have Jonah in the whale's belly praying. That is contained in the book of the prophet Jonah. The words there are preserved for us by the Holy Spirit, inspiration of the Spirit is there, but they are the words, not which Jonah had the consciousness that God had given him as a revelation, but they are the words which Jonah prayed to God in the situation, and the same, of course, refers to the account of the storm, and the account of their throwing Jonah overboard. That is all simply an account of that which occurred. Mr.---?

(Question from student) I distinguish/<sup>between</sup> two words--revelation and inspiration. By revelation