

## Prophets 18

Caiphias when he spoke was very definitely speaking without knowledge. He was an instrument of revelation perhaps as much as Balaam's ass was an instrument of revelation. God spoke through the ass. But Caiphias had one idea in mind but he uttered something which expressed something very different from what he had in mind, and the words which he took fit in with the divine truth in a most wonderful way but I don't think he had—I'm absolutely sure he hadn't the least conception of the truth which he was giving. He said, "Here are the Romans. This man makes an insurrection. All the people will get excited and they will stir up the anger of the Romans and the Romans will come and take away our place and nation. It is better that one man die for the nation than that the whole nation die," and I believe that his idea was strictly and entirely political, but the specific statement which he made, "It is better that <sup>well that</sup> one man die for the nation," was a statement which fit in, of course, exactly with the true import of Christ's death, that he was dying on behalf of sinners, and dying for them and to save them from the wrath of God, so it was an instance simply where God used His words and caused them to be expressed in that way which fit in with the truth, but Caiphias, himself, I am certain had absolutely no conception of it. He seems to have been a thoroughly worldly man, and thoroughly ungodly but a man who was born to the position of the leader of Judaism and the pharisees knew very well what his character was and had no use for him as a man, yet glorified his office. They paid their tithes to him. Someone else had a question back here? Mr.---? (Student) When they say, "Thus saith the Lord," there's direct revelation. But when a man says that Gideon went out into the field and Gideon prayed to God to give him an indication and Gideon went and tore down the idol or he led the people on into battle, he is writing what he observed. God is not revealing that to him. He has seen it himself, but God is leading him (Student) Oh, definitely. Certainly. That is the inspiration. (Student) I believe so. Yes, I believe they did, but we have no proof of it. It seems to me a reasonable inference. Mr. ---? (Student) Yes. He is indicating in that case that there is a meaning in that of a principle which is vital to us, but it isn't just