

in with the explanation of (3). A prophet is one who acts as a mouth for a god. A prophet is one to whom a god gives a message which the prophet passes on. That is what we learn in Exodus 7:1, in the light of context. But the parallel with this passage a little earlier in Exodus, and ~~we~~ compared with the following verse, it is a figurative use of the word prophet but it is very clear what it means. Is a prophet then a man who foretells the future? Is that what a prophet means? There is no mention here that Aaron is going to be able to predict the future. None whatever. That note is not even touched upon. What is told is that Aaron is to be Moses' mouth piece. Well now did Aaron predict the future. He did. We know. He said there will be (4) . He said frogs will come up and fill the place. He said the first born of all the families will be killed. He made many definite predictions. Those predictions were part of the message which he gave. But he was not a prophet because he made predictions. He was Moses' prophet because he was Moses' mouthpiece. Moses' spokesman. Moses' representative to take the message that Moses gave and to pass it on. And so Exodus 7:1 gives us a clear definition of a prophet. Now we must not say it is proven from this, but we can say that there is such a clear definition given from it, that we will have to find pretty strong evidence against it before we are ready to cast it aside. And we go ahead and look at other passages and see - do they present a different definition which you have to bring in and contrast with this and see what the common element is. Or do they in anyway contradict this definition? Or do they fit in? And if we find clear evidence in one case and many other cases which fit in with it, then we are justified in saying that this is what a prophet means in the Biblical sense. This is what the Hebrew word means. Prophet. Of course the Greek word *προφητης* etymology could tell you a great deal. But etymology couldn't prove there that *προφητης* there is one who gives a message out, or is one who gives a message beforehand. The Greek word could be interpreted in either of these senses. But in modern English the word prophet has come to mean a man who tells you beforehand what is going to happen. But that is not the Biblical meaning of the word prophet. And for the purpose of this class I like to distinguish between prophet and prediction. Prophecy is whatever a prophet