

as big as the kingdom of Jeroboam; he didn't have anything near the strength of that Jeroboam had; and if Jeroboam wanted to do such a thing, he simply couldn't do it. So he makes a prediction of something that is going to happen three hundred years later. How many different things does he predict under this rhetorical form? Take the whole last half of the verse. What can you express in ^{ve}four words what is predicted in the whole last half of the verse? (Asks students) A downfall; there is going to be a destruction of the altar. I think, though, that's a little too far. You don't find all that in this verse. This verse says that the altar will be defiled, doesn't it? This verse is telling us that this altar is going to be defiled. It is not destroying the altar to offer men on it; it doesn't hurt the altar. You might think the men are going to be hurt, but the altar isn't hurt by it. Men's bones are going to be burned on it, but men wouldn't be hurt if they are already dead either. Men's bones are to be burnt on it. What's the harm in burning men's bones on an altar? It is a defilement, isn't it? Here is this altar which is supposed to be this fine structure ~~xxx~~ central in the worship of this kingdom, and he says that it is going to have something done that is a defilement to it; it is going to have men's bones upon it. So the altar is going to be defiled. That's a terrible thing to tell Jeroboam, who is trying to make this a great, beautiful spot where people will worship that will increase their unity in his great kingdom that ~~is~~ has cut out of the southern third, Judah. The altar is to be defiled. That is one important thing that is included in this prediction. Now what is another important element in the prediction here? (Asks students) The end of the priesthood. Yes, it might be that. That would be a reasonable conjecture, not absolutely certain; that is, that the priests might have their bones burned on it and that wouldn't mean all of them. There might be an interruption. There could be. I think that that is a very reasonable conjecture from it, and, as a matter of fact, it was so. It was the end of it. (Student speaks.) Whether it is or not, you might conjecture, but it certainly gives the impression of the