

happened right then. Right immediately then after the prophet had declared that there was going to be a break in the altar the break came. Just as if I said this light was going to go out. That would be nothing. They will all go out sometime, but if it happened right soon or suddenly, it would be quite evidently related to what I said. So here ~~hxxx~~ the king can't pull in his arm and the ~~alter~~ altar breaks the top of the altar and ~~ashes~~ begin pouring out as the side of the altar isn't there to hold them in any longer. So when they see that, that that is a sign that the Lord has given. Two signs now he has given — The King's arm — he can't draw in his arm any more, and the altar has got this break in it which was fixed up probably very soon afterwards. (Question) No, ~~they~~ it just says he couldn't pull it in again. If it shrunk up it would come in itself, wouldn't it? The hand is out there and he loses his power, a slight paralysis, a sufficient paralysis that he couldn't pull the arm in; the strength was gone out of the arm. The king was there with his arm helpless before the altar. ^{not the destruction of the altar.} He had been told that the altar was going to be defiled three hundred years later and it couldn't be destroyed three hundred years later if it was destroyed now. It is really a very temporary injury to the altar. It simply is a sign that God is going to do that three hundred years later and that he is going to cause the house of David to continue. Now did the house of Jeroboam continue three hundred years so that the house of David could destroy it at that time? The house of Jeroboam only continued a few years after this and another house succeeded and it died and another house succeeded and it after four generations died and another house succeeded and it after five generations died. Then there were other isolated ~~thin~~ kings. And then came this thing. It brings into relief the contrast ~~of the continuing~~ between the continuing house of David that went on and on and the house of Jeroboam that lasted such a short time and the succession of changed in the northern kingdom. This prediction then conveyed the idea of permanence in the house of David which is going to continue and outlast this altar. (Question) Yes, that is only a