

a spokesman for God. In this particular case he had a message already from God as to what to do. He might, of course, have not had a message from God on this particular matter and had to use his own best wisdom on the matter. We have a case like that in the case of Nathan in the reign of David, which many of you, I am sure, will recall. David said to the prophet, "Nathan, I would like to build a fine house for the Lord. Why should I live in a fine house and the worship of God is carried on in a tent? I'm going to build a fine tabernacle." Nathan said, "That's wonderful that you have that loyalty to God that you desire to do this for the worship of God. Do it and the Lord will bless you." That was Nathan's personal attempt to think out the situation. The way it impressed him was that it was a very good idea and a fine thing for David to do. That is the wisdom that anyone would have used in the situation. But that night the Lord gave a message to Nathan, and the Lord said, "Here is a message for David." He said, "You have ~~z~~ shown a very fine attitude in your desire to build a house for me. You will always have prosperity as long as you sit on the throne." So he gave David a blessing for it, but He continued and said it is not my will that David should build a house. It is to be built ~~fa~~ by his son who follows him and not by David himself. So here Nathan, the prophet, had a message from God and he spoke to David the next day as a prophet and told David he should not build the house. The day before he had used his own wisdom and told him ~~that~~ what was the best wisdom that he could use. God wants us to use the best wisdom that we have, but when there is a definite message from God, He wants us to follow that. In this case the prophet had received his message in advance regarding this particular contingency, and so the prophet answered, "If you give me half your house, I won't go in with you, nor will I eat bread nor drink water in this place; for it was charged me by the Word of the Lord, Eat no bread nor drink water nor turn again by the same way that thou camest." God had given the prophet a specific message that the prophet was to eat nothin in this place; he was to drink nothing there; he was to ~~return~~ return a different way than the way which he came. Now the prophet