

sin. So the prediction then is for this purpose. This is what the prophet is doing. He is doing it by means of a prediction. Now sometimes a prediction is made for the purpose of proving to people that it is God's word that is being given. It is to authenticate a messenger of God. Do you think that is the purpose here? Here are these people standing around. And they see Jeroboam offering on the altar and the prophet comes up and he says, this is contrary to God's will. There is going to be a man named Josiah who is going to burn the priest upon this altar, and burn men's bones upon the altar, and now the man has made a prediction. All that the people around have to do is to sit back and watch and wait and see whether this prediction is fulfilled. And if the prediction is fulfilled they know that he is a true prophet, and that it is sinful to worship at this altar, and they won't worship there anymore. But if his prediction is not fulfilled, then they can say he is a false prophet, and it is alright to worship at this altar. Would that be the purpose of the prophet to enable these people here to find out whether he is really a true prophet and this is really sinful. Would that be the purpose? Why not? (Student). Because these people would have to wait 300 years to find out, wouldn't they? And as they waited, they sat there and they waited, and they said well now, we are not sure he is a true prophet. It is all right to go on sacrificing here until we find proof, and they waited, and ~~Rhehaboam~~ <sup>Rhehaboam</sup> ~~Jeroboam~~ had a son and his name wasn't Josiah. And then he had a son and his name wasn't Josiah, and they go on sacrificing there and waiting and wondering whether they would find out whether he was a true prophet or not, and eventually their great, great, great, grand children would say, the king of Judah has a son named Josiah. They knew the prophet was a true prophet, and it is wrong to sacrifice here. ~~K~~And the others would say yes. How do we know this man Josiah is going to come up here and do this. Maybe he won't. Better wait and find out, so they keep on sacrificing. And so they keep on sacrificing another 40 years. Finally when the day comes that Josiah comes and goes up ~~an~~ there and ~~gives~~ kills them for their wickedness it is too late then to quit. In other words, this prediction did no good whatever in certifying that that prophet was a true prophet to those people that did it. None whatever. But this pronounced judgment upon sin, and showed how evil was the thing that the people were doing. It pronounced the judgment upon it and eventually there would be an authentication, eventually there would be an assurance that would prove to the people later on