

prophetic books, one should go through the entire earlier portion of the Old Testament and study thoroughly all the actions of the prophets. In the course of doing so, one of the most interesting chapters to which one comes, and one which throws much light on activities ~~in general~~ of prophets in general is I Samuel 16.

The chapter begins with a verse which shows us clearly that the prophet was not omniscient. Sometimes people think of a prophet as one who knew everything and merely could explain it to the people. This is clearly not so. The prophet was a spokesman for God and passed on the information which God gave to him. God did not tell him everything. He could not do so without giving the prophet a divine and infinite mind. He reveals to the prophet certain things and these things the prophet passes on. The prophet, himself, is only a human being subject to mistakes and frailties like all of us.

In verse 1 of this chapter we find God telling Samuel that he is no longer to mourn for Saul since God has rejected him from reigning over Israel. This gives us a picture of the attitude which Samuel had taken. God has instructed Samuel to appoint Saul as king and to crown him. Samuel has looked forward with great hope to that which Saul is to do. Now Saul has proven unfaithful and turned against the command of the Lord. Samuel is prostrate with grief. He looked with such great hope to this strong and powerful man who was to rule the people of Israel. Now the man has proved a failure. Like so many of us when things on which we have put our hope fail, he was tempted to lose himself in despair and grief. God said to the prophet, no, that on which you have put your hopes has failed but there is something new. God is making a new provision and you must turn aside from the old and pay your attention to it.

I have known many people who have been so interested in some great human movement which had been greatly used of God, that when this movement turned aside and became apostate, they could do nothing but mourn. They felt it necessary to preserve a loyalty to the human movement instead of keeping their loyalty where it should be - on God and His Word. Everything human is bound to fail. It is only