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tain task. We must apply principles ^{found} ~~contained~~ in His Word. One of these principles is contained in this seventh verse. We must endeavor to look, not on the outward appearance, but on the heart as God does. We, of course, cannot see the heart as He does. We can only see the outward appearance. But we must strive to look beyond the outward appearance to use all the various means which we can secure in order to ascertain the nature of the heart of the man. The first evidence we can find of the heart of a man is in the answer to the question, Does he have his natural heart or has God taken away the stony heart and given him a heart of flesh? Too often, people in trying to perform spiritual tasks seek the help of a worldly man for the purpose. The man may be a very fine man in many ways but if he has not been regenerated by the Spirit of God, he is not one who is declaring that he looks for salvation only through the blood of Christ, then we have no reason to think that he has a heart on which God can look with any approbation. We must try to get the one on whose heart God will look with favor, rather than simply those whose outward appearance appeal to us. There is much more of importance to be said on this verse, but it relates to a slightly different subject and should be considered in a different context.

People in our day sometimes feel that it is wrong to attempt to learn things from the prophetic writings which could not be known to the prophets themselves. They say the prophets certainly had no such thing in mind as that which you present. He was thinking only of conditions in his own day. This story of Samuel shows us that what the prophet was thinking was not the whole answer. It is an important part of the answer. But it is also true that God has often led the prophets in relation to things which the prophet did not fully understand and as I Peter tells us, God may cause the prophet's word to convey a meaning far beyond what the prophet realized or expected.

The second verse shows us Samuel with a question in his mind. He asked how he can go and crown a son of Jesse as king because if Saul hears it he will kill him. I do not think that we are properly to consider that Samuel is here