

They did not feel that they should come for various reasons. That is all pure imagination of course. We just don't know. I think Calvin's guess is a better one. Calvin's guess is that the word failed to reach these two men, and after all with a group of thousands of people and God says, Order these 70 men to come. There was no loud speaker. There was no system of telephones. There was none of the elements of communication that we have today and even with them ~~if~~ slip ups occur frequently. It's entirely possible that in fact, I think Calvin's guess is probably the best one. That the word simply failed to reach these two men. And therefore these two men were perhaps having an interesting discussion somewhere and they were not at the place where they would normally be when the ~~message~~ messenger would ~~come--very~~ come and say "Come to the tabernacle. Moses wants you right away. And so they stayed there.

A more difficult question than either of these is the question, What does it mean when we read that the Spirit rested upon them and they prophesied and did not cease? What did these 70 men do there around the tabernacle? I think we have to say we don't know what they did. We don't know what they did out there around the tabernacle. But whatever they did it was something that was suited to giving Moses encouragement and enabling Moses to know that he was not alone in the work. And enabling Moses to know that these 70 men who had made ~~the~~ <sup>their</sup> mistakes and had their shortcomings and had failed at many points as they had been helping him in the past, had received a special endowment from God of His spirit to enable them to give Moses better help in the future than they had in the past. Surely those are the purposes in the situation of these 70 men prophesying as they stood there around about the tabernacle. "They prophesied and did not cease." But exactly what they did or what they said, we <sup>simply</sup> do not know. Now there have Rabbinic commentators in the Middle Ages who have written -- someone wrote the Book of Eldad and Medad and this book gives <sup>you</sup> the prophecies ~~of~~ that Eldad and Medad gave. And tells how those prophecies were ~~fulfilled~~ <sup>fulfilled</sup> in later years. That of course is pure imagination. We have no reason to think that when they prophesied it means they predicted the future. I'm not ~~is~~ sure there would be great value in 70 men standing around predicting the future. The prophetic books are not simply predictions.