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## A DISCUSSION OF THE FIRST PART OF JUDGES 16

In this chapter we have a very interesting account of an important action on the part of a prophet. Samuel was one of the great prophets of the Old Testament. We cannot consider all of Samuel's acts as throwing light on the work of the prophets, for Samuel also acted at times as a judge. At the time of this chapter, Saul was already king and Samuel no longer had functions as judge but acted simply as a prophet. In other words, he was God's spokesman or mouthpiece. He took the message which God gave him and passed it on.

Now in this instance God spoke to Samuel through whom he had given the message that he was going to reject Saul as king, and told Samuel that he was to anoint a new king. He was to go to Bethlehem to Jesse, for God was to choose a king from one of the sons of Jesse.

Verse 2 is very interesting. Here we find that Samuel says that if Saul hears that he has gone to anoint another man to become king, Saul will kill Samuel. God does not say to Samuel, "tell every one you meet that you are on your way to anoint a new king. That is the truth and you should tell the truth to every one on every possible occasion. If you are killed for the sake of it, you are ~~martyr~~ a martyr to the truth." No, this is not what he says. On the other hand, he does not say, "Tell the people a lie." God never commands a man to tell a lie. The so-called white lies are often the blackest of all lies. It is one's duty never to tell what is not true, but it is not necessarily one's duty always to tell the whole truth. In this ~~case~~ case, God sends Samuel to perform a task and it was the business of ~~Sam~~ Samuel and of the people to whom Samuel went. It did not concern others and they had no right to know the circumstances. Samuel was instructed to tell what was perfectly true, but not to tell the whole truth. He simply said that he was going to perform a sacrifice.

As Samuel went to Bethlehem, we have interesting light thrown on the question as to whether the prophets always fully understood their message. The