

answer, of course, is clear to anyone who realizes that the prophet is simply the spokesman for God. God gives the prophet the message, and the prophet does not necessarily understand him to the full. We read in I Peter that the prophets wondered and searched in trying to understand the full meaning of the message which was given to them. In this case Samuel has been told that one of the sons of Jesse is to be anointed the new king. The area of his knowledge is distinctly circumscribed, but it is not a point. In fact, there is ~~not~~ no such thing as a point in all nature. No matter small you make a point, ~~it~~ it always can be subdivided into smaller sections or divisions or areas. What we do is to circumscribe an area. We take a statement and we say something is definitely excluded from this and something is included. Samuel knew that the next king was not to be one of Saul's sons. He also knew that it was not to be a man, for instance, from the tribe of Dan. There were many things excluded. On the other hand, it was restricted at this time to the sons of Jesse, and within that he did not know which of them it was to be. We are sure of this, because when they came before him, he himself said, surely the Lord's anointed was before him and God told him, no, that this was not the case. He had to wait until God revealed definitely which one it was.

There are people who insist that because we cannot make an absolutely sharp line between two areas, therefore we do not know anything about them. It is possible to stand here and say we are on the land. We know we are. We are on the continent of North America, we are not on the ocean. It is possible to stand in a boat on the ocean and say we know we are on the ocean, we are not on the continent. Yet one cannot say with an absolutely sharp line just where the ocean ends and where the land begins. There is tidewater which varies just from day to day over a considerable extent. This territory ~~which~~ in between may be reckoned one way to the ocean and another way to the land, but when you get on the indeterminate area, you know very definitely which you are on.