

being "tried in the furnace of the earth." It is "a trial for the earth." to try whether those who "receive the witness of men" when that stands alone, will refuse the witness of men because it stands in a book in which the witness of God is inseparably connected with it from the first page to the last.

Human history claims our belief because it is the testimony of men, and we receive it. Sacred history claims our belief because it is the testimony of men corroborated in every letter by Divine testimony, and men reject it. *Because God bears witness to it, therefore, says the unbeliever, it cannot be true.*

Well then, to pass from history to prophecy. Our subject is "the testimony of prophecy to the Divine authorship and character of the Bible." Among other histories, the Bible contains the history of the prophets, the sacred writers. Every one of them comes under the head of prophets, men who spake for God. Now, let me ask your attention for a few moments to the question what a prophet is. A good deal is said on this subject which is rather misleading, and I think that it ought to be sifted and put aside unless it will bear severe testing. I mean this kind of talk. We used to be told, or it is said that we used to be taught, that a prophet means one who foretells things to come; and we were told that the syllable "pro" in the word "prophet" meant "before"; a person who speaks of things before they come. Now that idea is corrected. A prophet is not a foreteller but a forthteller; a man who tells forth for another; a spokesman. True enough. "He shall be thy spokesman unto the people." So the idea that the business of a prophet was to foretell things to come is quietly pushed away and discredited, because it seems to rest on the faulty or mistaken derivation of a Greek word.

Well, but what has that got to do with it? We are asking not what the word "prophet" means, but what the thing called a prophet is. What is a prophet? And those two questions are very different. Suppose you are preaching the Gospel and I want to hear it. You tell me, "Oh, Gospel" is a word which means *good* news, or tidings." Will that save my soul? What does it matter to me what the word means? Tell me the good tidings themselves, and then I will tell you whether I like them and whether they do me any good. I am glad to hear that the Gospel is good tidings, but it will not help me