

A. A. MacRae

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B. How the Prophet Gave His Message.

1. Brief Oral Statements and Rejoinders.

On various occasions a prophet was directed by God to confront a king or other leader and present to him a brief message of rebuke or encouragement, or a specific order to be carried out. Thus Deborah gave a divine command to Barak (Judg 4:6-7). An unnamed man of God rebuked Eli (I Sam 2:27-36). Shemaiah the man of God told Rehoboam to stop fighting against Israel (II Chron 11:3-4). Jehu the son of Hanani pronounced doom on Baasha (I Kings 16:7). Azariah the son of Oded encouraged Asa (II Chron 15:1-2). Jehu the son of Hanani rebuked Jehoshaphat (II Chron 19:2-3). Elijah suddenly appeared before Ahab, predicted a disastrous drought and disappeared (I Kings 17:1). After Naboth had been a victim of judicial murder Elijah met Ahab and gave him a terrible rebuke (I Kings 21:17-24). Other similar incidents might be cited.

In addition to the brief oral statements, the prophets sometimes answered questions or made rejoinders, giving further Divine messages. Thus when, at a time of great national danger, an unnamed prophet promised Ahab victory over