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ments of the law that God gave to Moses and that Moses passed on to the people (e.g., Exod 20:22-23:33). In Numbers Balaam gave four rather long messages (Num 23:5-10, 16-24; 24:3-9, 15-24) declaring God's favor upon Israel, after Balak had hired him to curse it. No long discourses 7 have been preserved from Samuel or from Jonah, but this is no proof that they did not make any. In fact the contrary is doubtless the case.

The books known as the Major and Minor Prophets contain many long messages that were delivered orally.

3. Patriarchal Blessing. A peculiar 14 type of divine message occurs in the book of 15 Genesis, where certain patriarchs make declara 16 tions regarding the future of their descendants. 17 Sometimes such a speaker uses language that 18 might sound as if he had some control over what 19 would happen to his descendants in the future. 20 However, to draw such an inference from his 21 words would, of course, be incorrect. In these 22 instances recorded in the Bible, it is evident 23 that the patriarch was strictly watched over by 24 the Divine Spirit and permitted to say only what 25 was in accord with God's plan for the future.

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