## PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

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interpreter has suggested that, since the subject and object might sometimes be confused in
Hebrew, Isaac may have tried to convince himself
that the divine prediction regarding Jacob and
Israel should be so interpreted as to mean that
the younger would serve the elder. When Jacob
stood before Isaac God allowed him to glimpse
the future of Jacob's descendants and to give a
true prediction of their predominance, even
though Isaac himself thought he was blessing
Esau. When Isaac learned his mistake he was
greatly disappointed, but recognized that
nothing could be done to change it. God had
overruled Isaac's personal wishes.

When Esau returned Isaac gave him a lesser blessing, telling what God then revealed to him about the future of Esau's descendants.

When Jacob thought his end was near Joseph
brought his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to
see their grandfather. Jacob declared that
these two sons of Joseph would have a position
among Jacob's own sons as progenitors of tribes
(Gen 48:5). Jacob crossed his hands so as to
put the right hand on the younger son instead of
on the older, as Joseph had intended. When

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