AUTHOR A. A. MacRae

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scarcity of these items in a city under siege (vv.9-11). Then he was to cut off some of his hair and to burn part of it, to strike part of it with a knife, and to scatter the remainder, illustrating the coming fate of the people in Jerusalem (Ezek 5:1-4). When the time for the siege was drawing near he was ordered to dig a hole under the wall of his house and carry his household goods out through it, to illustrate the coming flight of the refugees from Jerusalem (Ezek 12:1-16).

The use of symbolic acts was not limited to the true prophets. One of the men who tried to please Ahab by giving the messages the king desired to hear made horns of iron and said: "Thus saith the LORD, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them" (I Kings 22:11). Similarly, after Jeremiah had put yokes around his neck to illustrate the coming subjection of the nations to the king of Babylon (Jer 27:1-11), Hananiah the son of Azur, who pretended to be a prophet, publicly took the yoke off Jeremiah's neck and broke it, declaring that God would free the nations from Nebuchad-

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25 nezzar within two years (Jer 28:10-11).