

ARTICLE.....

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1 Some interpreters insist that most of the  
2 symbolic acts described in the books of Isa, Jer  
3 and Ezek are merely visions. They say, for  
4 instance, that Isaiah could not actually have  
5 gone "naked and barefoot" for three years,  
6 because this would have been indecent; there-  
7 fore, he must simply have had a vision in which  
8 he did so. They say that Jeremiah could not  
9 possibly have taken his girdle all the distance  
10 to Euphrates to bury it and then returned all  
11 that distance to dig it up. They say that  
12 Ezekiel could not actually have lain beside a  
13 tile for 390 days because it would have been  
14 impossible to lie still so long. These and  
15 similar arguments are sometimes elaborated at  
16 length. However, a little reflection will show  
17 that to consider these symbolic acts as merely  
18 visions would defeat their purpose, which was  
19 not to give the prophet a new understanding, but  
20 to seize the attention of the people. To hear  
21 Isaiah say that he had walked naked and barefoot  
22 for three years in a vision would add little to  
23 the effect of his messages. To see the prophet  
24 walking around in a state of dress quite unbecom-  
25 ing his station in life would arouse interest

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