ARTICLE PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

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Moreover, such arguments rest upon interpre-2 tations of the text that are hermeneutically 3 unsound. It is recognized by many commentators 4 6 (e.g., G. B. Gray in ICG and E. H. Plumptre in 6 Ellicott) that the statement that Isaiah walked 7 naked may well mean that he simply laid aside 8 his outer garment. The command to Ezekiel to 9 lie before the tile 390 days to represent the 10 iniquity of Israel would not necessarily require that he lie there 24 hours at a time. 11 12 A few hours each day would satisfy all the 13 requirements of the symbolic act. Some of the precise references to Babylon in the book of 14 Jeremiah and the fact that when Nebuchadnezzar 15 16 conquered Jerusalem he seemed already to know = 17 about Jeremiah has led many interpreters to 18 think that Jeremiah could well have made a visit 19 to Babylon during the years of comparative peace. On such a trip he might have buried his 21girdle near a part of the river that is much nearer to Jerusalem than Babylon itself, and then have dug it up on his return journey. Even 24 this assumption is not necessary, for a number 25 of interpreters suggest that the word

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