PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

ARTICLE AUTHOR

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(3) member of a group, (4) an apprentice or learner (cf. Prov 1:8; 2:1; 3:1, etc.). 2 The picture of the "sons of the prophets" in 3

II Kings 2 is not a pleasant one. They are Å depicted as men with a complete lack of under-5 standing of the nature of the divine work and 6 with superstitious ideas (v.16). There is no 7 evidence that Elijah ever looked upon them in 8 any way other than with indifference and scorn. 9 At first Elisha showed little interest in them 10 (II Kings 2:3,5,16-18), though later on he 11 established friendly relations with them (chs. 12 4-6) and even, on one occasion, deputed one of 13 them to do an important errand (9:1-10). From 14 among these men, who doubtless had a sincere 15 desire to serve the Lord, God might occasionally 16 choose an individual to perform the prophetic 17 function, but there is no evidence that this was 18 often the case.

E. Cessation of OT Prophecy. Until about 400 B.C. the prophetic movement was very promi-21 nent in Israel. Time and again an individual came forward declaring the Word of God, boldly facing political leaders and denouncing them 24 for their sins, giving encouragement to God's

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