

1 people, or announcing God's will as the next
2 step to be taken. After about 400 B.C. the
3 prophets ceased to appear. There was no decla-
4 ration that prophecy was ending, nor did anyone
5 realize that this had occurred. Only after a
6 time did realization dawn upon the people. The
7 book of I Maccabees, which is on the whole a
8 sober history of events during the Jewish revolt
9 against Antiochus Epiphanes, brings out clearly
10 in three places the fact that it was felt that
11 there then was no prophet in Israel and that
12 this had been true for a considerable length of
13 time (I Macc 9:27). This situation was not
14 accepted as final (I Macc 4:46; 14:41). When
15 the Jews did not know what to do with the altar
16 that had been so desecrated by the Syrians, they
17 showed their expectation of the coming of new
18 prophets by deciding to keep it in a safe place
19 until a prophet should appear and tell them
20 what was God's will in the matter (4:46). At
21 about A.D. 90 Josephus, discussing the beliefs
22 of his people, said that at about the time of
23 Artaxerses of Persia "the exact succession of
24 the prophets" had ceased (Contra Apionem, I 8).
25 Since that time no individual has been generally

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