ARTICLE PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

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actions and through the course of history. Yet
in all their thinking they constantly assume
that God has never revealed Himself through
words. To many of them, as to some of those in
the other two categories, the prophets were
simply great thinkers who either deduced or
intuitively discovered important truths. To
others, particularly in the first two categories, the activities of the prophets were
either the result of peculiar psychological
quirks, or a by-product of the clash of various
political, religious or social forces.

Any one of these three assumptions makes it impossible to take the words of the prophets at 14 their face value or to believe that God actually communicated messages to them which they in turn passed on. These interpreters, however, are 17 interested in determining the forces that 18 brought these books into existence. They are interested in determining whether the prophets were men who interpreted events through their 21own reasoning or whether they were individuals who were influenced by emotional vagaries to take certain attitudes or to utter certain expressions. A great amount of erudition has

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