AUTHOR

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phetic books expressing interest in the temple ceremonies and sympathy with their purposes.

From this there developed a widespread attitude among naturalistic critics that maintained that the prophets were actually a group of temple servants, receiving their support from the temple and supporting its ceremonial, though at times opposing corrupt elements that had crept in. This attitude has been greatly stressed in recent years.

An altered view has been advanced by a few scholars who have maintained that the prophets could be divided into two groups: (1) the "popular prophets" who received their income from the temple and supported the status quo, and (2) the "reforming prophets" who opposed them and were not connected with the cult. Comparatively few scholars have as yet espoused this later view.

F. The Sociological Approach. During the first part of the 20th cent. many popular writers, affected by the critical attitude of considering the prophets as supporters of the simple life of the desert, wrote books