PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

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in I Sam 18:8-11. Saul sometimes found relief for his highly strung nerves through listening 2 to the playing of David on the harp. When the 3 populace praised David's exploits as a warrior 4 5 it filled Saul with jealousy and added to his nervousness. One day an evil spirit came upon Saul "and he prophesied in the midst of the 7 B house: and David played with his hand, as at g other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's 10 hand. And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I 11 will smite David even to the wall with it" (vv. 12 10-11). There is nothing unique about Saul's 13 irrational and changeable actions. The only 14 problem in the passage is the use of the word 15 "prophesy" in connection with Saul, which may 16 have been used to mean that he poured out words <sup>17</sup> in a way that might have sounded to others like the speaking of the followers of the prophets, or, more likely, that it was felt that the evil spirit was expressing its ideas through Saul's In either case it can hardly be taken as mouth. throwing much light on the characteristics of God's true prophets. 23

The other passage in I Sam is in ch. 28 where Saul, who had strictly forbidden the people to

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