

ARTICLE

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Elite 48

Pica 48

1 I Sam, it is not at all strange that other
2 critics should make extremely dogmatic asser-
3 tions about the alleged ecstasy of the prophets,
4 going far beyond any evidence that can be drawn
5 from the Biblical data.

6 The only evidence of any importance that can
7 be drawn from the prophetic books themselves to
8 support the idea of an unnatural psychological
9 state of the prophets is taken from the book of
10 Ezekiel. This book describes a number of
11 peculiar acts which have already been discussed
12 above under "Symbolic Actions" in II B 5. In a
13 situation very different from that of modern
14 western nations Ezekiel used peculiar methods to
15 attract attention. These, however, are hardly
16 evidence that the prophet was in a distorted
17 mental state. More particularly, claims about
18 the alleged ecstatic character of Ezekiel's
19 activities are based upon Ezek 8-11 where it is
20 said that Ezekiel was transported across the
21 desert to Jerusalem in a vision and saw strange
22 events there which he recounted after being
23 again brought back to Chaldea in a vision. That
24 the prophet, while having this vision, was in a
25 very unusual mental situation cannot be denied.

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