

1           A. Basic Considerations.

2           1. An Unusual Type of Literature. One

3 of the first considerations in examining any

4 written material is to determine what sort of

5 literature it is. It might be a narrative, a

6 love letter, or a poem celebrating a victory or

7 mourning a death. Many of the types of litera-

8 ture that are common today can be found in al-

9 most every period of history, but prophecy is a

10 type of literature that is rarely found outside

11 of the Bible. It claims to be the presentation

12 of a divine message through the mouth of a

13 divinely selected spokesman. The Christian

14 believes that the writers of the Bible were

15 divinely commissioned to write material that

16 should infallibly present the Word of God, but

17 does not believe that anyone else has ever been

18 given a similar task. The parts of the Bible

19 that consist almost entirely of divine messages

20 for God's people are quite different in nature

21 from literature outside of the Bible or in most

22 other parts of the Bible. Many other sections

23 of the Bible deal with situations that can be

24 paralleled wherever human beings have lived.

25 They describe rejoicing at birth and at weddings,

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