

ARTICLE

AUTHOR

A. A. MacRae

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1 ings to the importance of finding the "situation
 2 in life" which led to the production of a cer-
 3 tain piece of literature. This principle
 4 applies in a modified way to the study of the
 5 prophets. The prophecies were not given simply
 6 in order to write a book that should be of help
 7 for future ages. Everything that God caused to
 8 be included in the Bible is of real importance
 9 for His people throughout the ages, yet the pro-
 10 phets spoke directly to men of their time. In
 11 interpreting any part of the prophetic books
 12 it is very important to consider whatever can be
 13 learned of its historical background. The his-
 14 torical books contain accounts of the activities
 15 of various prophets and quote many of their mes-
 16 sages. In the prophetic books the historical
 17 background must frequently be ascertained by
 18 careful examination of incidental statements, or
 19 learned from other parts of the Bible. Thus
 20 knowledge of the historical background described
 21 in II Kings 16:5-9 is essential to the under-
 22 standing of Isa 7 and Isa 28. These and various
 23 other sections of the prophetic writings cannot
 24 be properly interpreted without first determin-
 25 ing their historical background. However, an

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