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and the longer messages in the major and minor prophets, it soon becomes apparent that more than half of what is said comes under the heading of rebuke for sin and call to repentance. This activity evidently consumed far more of the prophet's time than any other feature of his work. There is a tendency among Bible students to pass rapidly over these sections, but in so doing a great part of the message of the prophets is missed. God caused these long messages of rebuke to be written down and preserved because He desired His people during all the later centuries to apply to their hearts and lives these stern warnings against sin.

2. Encouragement to the People of God.

Though occupying much less space than rebuke, this is a very important part of the prophetic activity, and these are the passages which receive most attention today.

In a great many cases such passages come immediately after the passages of rebuke. Very often, particularly in the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah, there are passages of fairly great length composed almost entirely of rebuke, followed by a rather sharp transition to declar-