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particular action to be taken. A number of similar instances occur in Judges and in I Sam and II Sam. Rehoboam was told by the prophet to discontinue attempts to reconquer Israel (I Kings 12:22-24). Isaiah informed Ahaz that he need not worry about the coming attack from Samaria and Syria because God would soon remove both of these kings (Isa 7:5-8). Isaiah told Hezekiah that he could safely wait out the attack of Sennacherib, since God would prevent this invader from capturing Jerusalem. On the other hand, Jeremiah urged Zedekiah to surrender to Nebuchadnezzar, since it was God's will to allow this Babylonian conqueror to overwhelm Judah (Jer 38:17-21).

In view of the fact that there were times when God caused a prophet to give information as to the proper policy to be performed in a certain situation, it was easy for uninformed people to gain the false impression that the prophet was primarily a soothsayer or diviner. It is always easy for superstitious ideas to develop. In the period of the Judges such ideas gained wide circulation. I Sam shows that many people had this false impression of Samuel, but there