

A. A. MacRae

Future Messiah. This was a very important part of the work of the OT prophets. Such declarations were generally given in relation to a background involving the immediate situation. Thus when Ahaz showed himself an unbelieving and unworthy head of the house of David, Isaiah declared that God would in His own time provide a new head for the house of David, who would indeed be "God with us" (Isa 7:14). While Isaiah clearly predicted God's future mercy in bringing the people back from Babylonian exile (Isa 40-52) he gradually developed the vital point that the exile was the result of sin, so that deliverance from one exile would be only a very temporary help, unless a full and satisfactory solution to the sin question were ^{to be} provided. Then he showed God's wonderful answer to the sin question, by presenting the marvelous description of the expiatory work of Christ in Isa 52:13-53:12.

Although these Messianic predictions are thus usually tied in with immediate situations, they form a constantly growing witness to the great climax that God would bring about through the sending of His Son to earth. The prophets