

A. A. MacRae

lowed his contest with the prophets of Baal, seemed about to give way to utter despair, God used this method of reassuring him of the divine control over all the nations. The predictions were given in the form of commands to Elijah to do what no mere prophet without political power or physical force at his disposal could possibly bring about (I Kings 18:15-16). Although they were not fulfilled during Elijah's lifetime, the assurance that these great changes of dynasty would occur in two important nations served to strengthen the prophet's realization of God's supreme power and control.

In connection with the fourth purpose of prophecy, that of informing God's people of the next step to take in a particular situation, prediction naturally plays a great part. Any such divine command is apt to contain either implicitly or explicitly a reference to some future event.

The important part that prediction occupies in relation to the other two purposes of prophecy is quite obvious.

Thus prediction, while not the major portion of prophecy, plays a very important part in it,