A. A. MacRae

"Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine" (I Kings 21:19). When Ahab humbled himself (v.27) the Lord said to Elijah: 'Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house" (v.29). The complete destruction of the dynasty of Ahab was brought about during the reign of his second son, whose dead body was cast onto the plot of ground that had been stolen from Naboth (II Kings 9:26). Thus the terrible prediction of doom to Ahab and his house was unconditionally fulfilled, but the time element was changed in view of Ahab's brief period of repentance.

Probably a similar situation exists in the book of Jonah where the prophet walked through Nineveh declaring, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (3:4). The people of Nineveh repented in sackcloth and ashes. Forty days passed and the city was not destroyed. The time element would seem to have been conditional but the prediction of destruction was uncondi-