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ment to the house of David and to the people of God and, at the same time, for rebuke to Ahaz, is followed by an immediate prediction mainly involving rebuke to Ahaz.

Usually predictions are given with a definite relation to an immediate situation. In a certain passage the prophet may rebuke the nation for its errors and then go on to encourage the people of God by showing something of the wonderful blessings that God will bring in the future for those who are true to Him. Next a different element of the wickedness or mistakes of the prophet's contemporaries may be described and its punishment foretold, and this may be followed by a description of a corresponding portion of God's future blessing.

An illustration that is quite apropos will be easily understood by anyone who has lived in a region where a series of high mountain ranges is visible, one behind the other. At some points a mountain in the first range is most prominent. Next to it one may see a peak from the third range back, and next to that one from the second range. Then a peak in the front range may again be most prominent while a high peak in the