

ARE ISRAEL'S PROPHETS REPRESENTED AS PRECISE EQUIVALENTS TO PROPHETS IN OTHER LANDS?

The visions of the Israelite prophets must be studied in the light of the modern psychology of religion, and it would be a serious blunder to isolate them as something entirely unique and not connect them with similar phenomena elsewhere in the religious world. (Lindblom, p. 124)

After mentioning that there were prophets in other lands of the ancient Near East before Israel appeared on the historical horizon -- Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Asia Minor and Syria, Tyre and Phoenicia, and saying that "its earliest manifestations are like those in Canaan", J. Muilenburg goes on to state: "Yet Israelite prophecy advanced in a direction quite different from that of her neighbors." (Muilenburg, in Peake's, 475-6)