

## Prophets

IBD article on PROPHET, PROPHETISM by B. D. Napier

p. 897 The institution of Israelite prophetism, qua institution, was an appropriation - ultimately phenomenally modified, to be sure, but still an appropriation - transacted on the ground of Canaan; and it did not clearly emerge - again qua institution - until the tenth century at the earliest.

p. 898 Less, because Israelite prophetism, if "biologically" indebted to the institution of seer, is also in unmistakable descent from a prophetism, whatever its origin and distribution, already present in the Canaan occupied by the Israelites.

Both passages (( 1 Sam. 10.10-12 and 19.23-24)) may be taken, regardless of relationship and date, as valid commentary on the phenomenon of Canaanite prophetism. This is patently a radically different office from that of the seer. Not now, certainly not yet, could one equate seer and prophet in Israel. . . . the seer appears as an office in Israel long familiar and thoroughly at home, quite conceivably dating from pre-Canaan times; but this earliest reference to contagious prophecy conveys the atmosphere of the alien. . . . This institution is not yet appropriated, or if in process of appropriation, not yet domiciled and certainly not yet integrated and adapted into the pattern of familiar Israelite existence.

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