

prophet is able to predict correctly some future event, his teaching must be in conformity with the previously declared will of God, or it is to be rejected.

Under this same head we may notice the purpose of prediction as authenticating God's representative in advance. The prophets declared before hand many details of the life of the One whom God was to send to earth. When these details were fulfilled it could be pointed out that this was evidence that He was actually the promised one.

(2) Under the second head, again prediction served to authenticate the message. The fulfillment within his own generation or in future generations of what the prophet predicted served to authenticate his commands as being actually from God.

(3 and 4) The promised blessings for obedience or punishments attendant upon disobedience were in themselves in the nature of prediction. Here naturally the element of conditional prediction enters in.<sup>4</sup>

(5) Here prediction was especially important and definitely unconditional. The prophet's contemporaries were guided as to their action in a given situation in view of the divine declaration regarding the immediate or distant future. Similarly future generations would receive guidance as to their actions in particular situations through the predictions as to what was to happen.