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is no reason to think that Samuel himself had such an idea, or that it was his intention that people should thus misunderstand his true role.

5. Authenticating a Divinely Appointed Leader or Prophet. Occasionally the prophet made predictions for the direct purpose of authenticating his authority, as in I Sam 3:19-21; 10:2-9, I Kings 13:3, II Kings 7:2 and Jer 28:15-17.

It was encouraging to the Israelites to know, many years in advance, that Cyrus would release them from the Babylonian captivity (Isa 44:28-45:1). Fulfillment of the prediction authenticated the fact that Isaiah had spoken from God and led to renewed confidence in other vital portions of his message.

Under this head might be placed certain of the predictions about the Lord Jesus Christ which did not bear directly upon the vital aspects of His mission, but which served to identify Him as the One actually predicted in the OT by the prophet (cf. Ps 22:18 and Isa 53:9).

6. Laying a Foundation for the Climax of All the Divine Activities in the Work of the