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singular form of the word "prophet" is used. This series of prophets is to point forward to the One who will be the greatest of all the prophets. The passage was so understood by the Jews. When a committee was sent to ask John the Baptist who he was (John 1:14-25), one of the questions asked was whether he was "that prophet"--a clear reference to the passage in Deut 18. In Acts 3:22 and 7:37 the passage was quoted to show the Jewish hearers that Jesus was the prophet whom Moses had predicted, the One who would be the climax of the great series of prophets.

Unless plural terms are used (or there is a clear indication in the context that a series of events is involved) each prediction should be understood as pointing to one specific event. Recognition of this principle is helpful in understanding the prophecies in Isa 7. The background of this chapter is made clear in II Kings 16:5-8. Ahaz is attacked by the king of Israel (also called Ephraim), which is far larger and stronger than Judah. Allied with Ephraim is Syria, a kingdom considerably stronger than Israel. In the face of this