

reasonably supposed. The manifestation and assertion of the ethical element in the Old Testament prophecy, however, is that which gives it a lofty moral elevation above all forms of pagan prophecy. In this respect, as has been indicated, Hebrew prophecy is essentially distinguished from heathen manticism or divination.

The different terms employed in the Old Testament to designate a prophet illustrate what has just been stated, namely, that Hebrew prophecy in general has no particular reference to prediction. Whether the term translated "seer" was an older designation of the prophetic office than was the term translated "prophet," is a question that does not come within the scope of this discussion. The parenthetical statement in 1 Samuel ix. 9, "He that is now called a prophet was before-time called a seer," indicates that in Samuel's day, at least, the term seer was a customary appellation of a prophet. Whichever term was the more ancient, a prophet, in the technical sense of the term, was a religious teacher, possessed of spiritual insight, whose office it was to declare the divine will and to interpret the divine purpose. His declarations had reference sometimes to the past, sometimes to the present, and sometimes to the future. From various passages in the books of Chronicles especially, the writing of sacred history seems originally to have belonged to the prophetic office. The incorporation of the historical books with the prophetic books of the Old Testament in the same division of the Hebrew Bible indicates that in ancient times the tracing of the hand of God in history was strictly considered prophecy. In the original application of the word, therefore, a very large portion of the whole Old Testament may be said to possess a prophetic character.

This account of the meaning of the word for prophet in Hebrew is confirmed by the meaning of the word for prophet in Greek. In classical Greek, according to Liddell and Scott, the word for prophet literally signifies one who speaks forth, or one who speaks for another. It is used especially to indicate one who speaks for a god, for the purpose of interpreting his will to man. It means essentially an interpreter, a proclaimer, a forthteller. Thus the technical meaning of the two words is