

and repentance, of faith and forgiveness, of holiness and righteousness. This remarkable spiritual harmony between them can only have been due to the influence of a common spiritual agency—the agency of the Divine Spirit.

From this account of the relation between the two dispensations, one may say that germinally prophecy proper was the gospel before the gospel. The old dispensation, however, was not simply previous to the new dispensation; it was preparatory to it. The Old Testament prophecy was a providential preparation for the New Testament evangel. It was God's method of spiritual instruction in harmony with a definite divine purpose. It was his method of training mankind for receiving the fuller statements of truth as it is in Christ. The New Testament revelation, therefore, in its essential elements is not only the historical continuation of the Old Testament revelation, but also the spiritual completion of it. The Old Testament contains in germinal and imperfect form the divine truths and principles which it was the special mission of Christ to unfold and perfect. The one revelation was introductory, the other complementary; the one was preparatory, the other complementary; the one was temporary, the other permanent. In this way, their inner spiritual unity indicates as well their close connection as their true relation. The two dispensations in essential teaching are substantially or practically one—one in aim and purpose, one in precept and principle, one in doctrine and spirit.

Significant as is Old Testament prophecy in general, Messianic prophecy in particular is still more significant. It takes precedence over every other subject connected with the Hebrew Scriptures. The series of Messianic passages found in various parts of the canonical books of prophecy affords one of the most striking features of the Old Testament revelation. From their peculiar character they constitute a singular collection of remarkable prophetic utterances. Taken together, they form a group of passages of great beauty and variety to which there is nothing analogous, much less comparable, in any other sacred literature. The fundamental feature of Messianic prophecy, namely, a hope or expectation of a great deliverer, whose advent should introduce, as well a reign of truth and righteousness, as