

the divine side, as I have also said, "all true prophecy originated through the energizing influence of the Spirit of God." Because of their common origin, therefore, certain general features would naturally and necessarily be common to all primitive prophecy. Whatever spiritual or religious elements it contained, however, were, as I have pointed out before, the outcome of superhuman agency, or of supernatural inspiration.

As Hebrew prophecy presents phenomena entirely distinct from those of heathen prophecy, so also the inspiration of the Hebrew prophets presents phenomena just as distinct from those of any other prophets. Their inspiration was the result of direct divine influence. They claimed not only to be inspired, but also to be inspired of God. They were conscious of receiving their communications, as well as their appointments, from him. In full possession of their faculties, they obtained their messages as active agents, not as passive machines or instruments, of the Spirit. Hence, as I have said, "the Divine Spirit was the originating cause of every prophetic utterance." "In general, therefore," I further say, "all true prophecy originated by the direct influence of the Divine Spirit upon the human spirit, and it entered into consciousness not as an imaginary but as an actual conviction or experience."

But, inasmuch as Messianic prophecy has certain special features of its own, its essential contents, though the outcome of divine illumination, arose from the organic connection of the Old Testament prophecy with the central ideas of the Jewish religion, this organic connection resembling the relation of the germ to the flower, or the relation of incipient truth to developed truth. Of these ideas which were inspired by the Divine Spirit in the hearts of the Hebrew people, there were three that possessed particular significance, namely, the idea of the covenant, the idea of the kingdom, and the idea of the theocracy. "The first idea inspired a lofty hope; the second idea suggested a universal kingdom; the third idea foreshadowed a glorious 'Prince of Peace.'"

From this last idea more particularly Messianic prophecy, in its strict sense as prophecy concerning an *ideal* person, had its origin under God. Messianic prophecy, in this sense, is the