

Prophecy was not something magical or mechanical performed by superhuman beings, who possessed miraculous foresight, but something moral and religious proclaimed by spiritual-minded men, who acted under supernatural influence. Though it gradually unfolded God's purpose of redemption for the world through his Messiah, yet it was not the miraculous prediction of future events, but the inspired utterance of divine truth. Like apostolic preaching, prophetic teaching was moral and religious instruction imparted by the aid of the Holy Spirit.

The essayist makes another unfortunate misstatement, however, when he says respecting the prophetic utterances of the Old Testament, that "at most we find passages or phrases which are capable of a spiritual application (to Jesus), and in that metaphorical sense prophetic." The spiritual teaching of the Old Testament is prophetic, irrespective of its application in the New Testament to Christ; and all the personal Messianic prophecies, such as those indicated at the bottom of a preceding page,¹ not only refer

¹ Page 133.