

the testimony of other passages, is sometimes said in poetic language of a contemporary king." In the Prophetic age, Messianic prophecy proper appears; but even here there is no prophetic passage that has an original reference to the New Testament Messiah. While, therefore, portions of the Hebrew Scriptures abound with Messianic prophecy, there is no passage in the Old Testament that refers directly and predictively to Jesus Christ; that is, there is no passage in which the future Messiah stood objectively before the writer's mind, or in which the prophet made particular and personal reference to the historic Christ.

#### THE APPLICATION OF MESSIANIC PROPHECY.

In discussing the import of Messianic prophecy, we have found that a prophetic passage may be regarded as Messianic in one of four senses. Some passages are Messianic in the sense of suggesting the Messianic idea; others are Messianic in the sense of referring to a *real* person who is called "Jehovah's anointed;" others are Messianic in the sense of referring to an *ideal* person who was expected in the future; others again are Messianic only in the sense of having been applied in the New Testament to Christ. But for the use made of them, either by Old Testament interpreters or by New Testament writers, very many prophetic passages would never have been considered Messianic at all.

As none of the numerous Messianic passages in the Old Testament refer directly or originally to the historic Christ, but appear in the New Testament merely as quoted by him or as applied to him, it becomes important to consider carefully the application of Messianic prophecy. Without an understanding of the way in which prophecy is applied, we shall be unable to understand the sense in which prophecy is fulfilled. A proper appreciation of the application of Messianic prophecy renders necessary a brief discussion of the quotations from the Old Testament in the New. For this reason, we must examine the use made in general of the Old Testament Scriptures in the writings of the New Testament. The special use of Messianic prophecy will then be plain. From their number and variety,