

calmly recorded the divine message with elegance and elaboration. But the *Golden Age* was that of action, speech and writing united. Their writing was the consequent and complement of their public speaking and action. The inspired teaching of their wonderful ministry bequeathed the questions of all time, of universal import, and of eternal moment. It is well claimed that their writings are the crown and flower of the Old Testament records; the most unique representations of Hebrew nationality and thought. No nation, no matter what her situation, has produced a set of writers so morally eminent and politically beneficent, as the prophets. In their lofty conceptions of God, in their self-sacrificing devotion to conviction, and the advocacy of a peerless righteousness, in striking contrast with the mechanical formalism and the empty ceremonialism of the priestly order, they were the Protestants and Reformers of Judaism.

There is an agreement between this *Golden Age* of prophetism, and the grouping of Kuenen, called the Præ-Assyrian period. "The prophets of this group, who wrote from the time that Assyria began to emerge upon the horizon till the overthrow of its power by Babylon, were poets, orators, and tribunes of the people, resting their claims exclusively on the authority of their divine message."

In this glowing period we find the very first in the transition from oral to written communications was

#### AMOS, THE HERDSMAN PROPHET OF TEKOAH.

Amos was a native of Tekoah, a small town of the kingdom of Judah, twelve miles south of Jerusalem, and some six miles south-east of Bethlehem. This was in a region bordering on the wilderness, which was principally inhabited by shepherds, and particularly noted for the growth of the sycamore tree.

There seems no valid ground of credibility for the contention of some critics, that Amos was an Ephraimite, born in the territory of Israel, and that he was simply a refugee in Tekoah, whither he had fled from the persecution of Amaziah. He was verily a Jew, "*to the manor born.*"