

spread, the opinion is erroneous. The Hebrew Scriptures do not claim a monopoly of religious prophecy, and it is unwise to misrepresent their claims in this respect by misinterpreting historic facts. Nothing is gained for the inspired truths of the Old Testament by endeavoring to exclude God from communion with the heathen world. While specially revealing himself to the Israelites, he did not conceal himself from the surrounding nations. On the contrary, he gave each nation a measure of revelation—a measure dependent on its degree of spiritual development. The same arguments that may be urged against the original features of non-Biblical prophecy may also be urged, and have also been urged, against the original features of Biblical prophecy.

It is unnecessary as well as unwise to depreciate pagan prophecy by refusing to recognize and acknowledge the features common to all primitive prophecy. A degree of the Divine Spirit was originally outpoured upon all flesh. Something of God has been implanted in every man, and something of God has been revealed to every race of men. His power and providence were manifest as well in heathen as in Hebrew history. God did not leave himself, the Scripture teaches, without witness. Both in nature and in conscience he revealed himself. The pagan world was inexcusable for its spiritual darkness, Paul declares, not only because of the outward witness to God's existence in the physical universe, but also because of the inward witness to his character in the human heart. The outer revelation helped, of course, to give the inner revelation scope. Thus both history and Scripture prove that human nature, even in heathendom, was not left without some knowledge of divine things. While not possessing as complete a revelation as the Jews, the Gentiles, notwithstanding, had such an amount of spiritual knowledge as to render them both personally and nationally responsible for the use which they made of it.

Though they possess certain general features in common, Hebrew prophecy differs from pagan prophecy by the possession of certain special features. A comparison of the former with the latter reveals important and essential points of difference.