

not reached its full development; and, as each prophet published his description of the Coming One in harmony with the stage to which the conception had developed in his own day, the prophetic representations are expressed rather in temporal than in spiritual forms. So long, however, as Hebrew prophecy continued, the hope of a future Messiah became more bright, and the perception of his character more clear, as time went on.

But, while the Coming One was perceived by the prophets only in the great outlines of his character and office and work, still he was represented by them as a ruler,¹ a counsellor,² a teacher, and a deliverer or saviour,⁴ all of which representations were spiritually fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth; for, when the fulness of time came, he as God's Messiah appeared on the earth, and bore the character and exercised the office and performed the work which the ancient Scriptures shadowed forth.

¹ Isa. ix. 2-7; Jer. xxiii. 5, 6; xxxiii. 15; Micah v. 2-5.

² Isa. xi. 1-10. ³ Ezek. xxxiv. 23, 24; xxxvii. 24, 25.

⁴ Zech. ix. 9.