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## MESSIANIC PROPHECY.

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

PROPHECY is a phenomenon peculiar to all great primitive religions. Although the place or period of its origin is not definitely known, it has existed from a very ancient date. Its appearance at the dawn of history suggests that it arose in pre-historic times. Wherever or whenever it originated, it belonged, in one form or another, to every important religious system of antiquity. Uncertain and obscure as is its origin, it appears to have arisen from a universal need in human nature. It seems to have sprung from a deep desire for knowledge in respect to spiritual realities and temporal contingencies.

Prophecy may be regarded either as subjective or as objective. Subjectively, the term implies the power of prophesying; objectively, it implies the outcome of prophesying. In the one case it denotes a gift, in the other case a result. In the former sense it indicates the process, in the latter sense the product, of prophetic activity. Since all the ancient nations of the world possessed and exercised this gift in some degree, the process as well as the product of prophesying, in every religion, seems at one time to have been substantially the same. In other words, certain general features were common to all primitive prophecy. This statement claims a brief consideration.

A popular view prevails that there is nothing in common between Biblical and non-Biblical prophecy. Though wide-