

We are now in a position to give a definition of the subject of this discussion. Messianic prophecy may be defined as the doctrine respecting Jehovah's anointed, as presented in the writings of the Old Testament. This doctrine, it should be carefully borne in mind, must be confined exclusively to Old Testament teaching, irrespective of New Testament application or interpretation. The doctrine, it should be further noted, expresses neither a definite knowledge nor a definite faith, but a cherished expectation or a cherished hope.

The expression, Messianic prophecy, has both a narrower and a wider application. In its extended sense, the term embraces all the Old Testament representations applicable to the Messianic age; in its restricted sense, the term includes simply the representations applicable to the Messiah Himself. In strictness, however, the term applies *only* to those prophecies in which the hope of Israel centres in an ideal person. Hence, in this inquiry, it has been thought better to confine the discussion chiefly to the personal aspect of the question.

THE ORIGIN OF MESSIANIC PROPHECY.

As prophecy is a part of revelation, and as revelation is an outcome of divine agency, Messianic prophecy, of course, like all true prophecy, originated through the energizing influence of the Spirit of God. "No prophecy," says Peter, to quote the Revisers' rendering, "ever came by the will of man, but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit." All prophetic Scripture, whether general or particular, is inspired of God. Without recognizing the reality of moral and religious inspiration, such a thing as prophecy proper becomes practically inexplicable.

A Hebrew prophet did not merely commend himself or his communication to the people of his time; he announced himself as Jehovah's messenger, and delivered his communication as Jehovah's message. He was not simply impelled by patriotic or political considerations; he was impelled by moral and spiritual convictions. He also regarded his convictions as having been divinely inspired. He gave the people those views of truth and those conceptions of doctrine, which he affirmed Jehovah had