

anticipations of Christianity we are about to take into account. These latter found their place in the historical periods represented by the dynasty of Jehu, 842-740 B.C., and that of the decline and fall, embraced between 740 B. C., and 722 B. C., in the North, and from 722 to 586 B.C., in the South.

The times of Amos and Hosea were characterized by social disorganization, the result the Syrian wars. And already Assyria, a greater than Syria, was looming over the horizon. Though successors of Elijah had caught his view and were endeavouring to bring the principles he enunciated into operation matters were becoming still more threatening to the Jehovistic faith. Such circumstances demanded an Amos and a Hosea who appear on the scene in the reign of Jereboam II.

Amos appears to see not one ray of light or hope for sinful Israel. Hosea sees it breaking through the thick clouds of national disaster and death.

Isaiah's activity centers about the great historical changes between 735 B.C., and 701 B.C. Syria has receded and Assyria is in the foreground. As a writer well expresses it, "If ever a prophet was intimately and entirely alive to the demands and tendencies of his own state and times, it was that Prophet Isaiah." Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah's. Allowing for some gaps, Nahum and Zephaniah fill in the periods elapsing between Isaiah and Jeremiah. Their contributions were important, but scarcely distinctive in relation to Christianity. In Jeremiah the Chaldean is the rod which Jehovah uses to smite Israel, as it was the Assyrian in Isaiah. And as then the rod itself shall in turn share the fate of judgment. Jehovah's power to use Chaldaea to destroy is his power also to set his people free again.

This brief historical survey lets us into the historical situation whose events drew forth and moulded under Jehovah's influence the principles and teachings which have left their influence upon Christianity and are yet destined to conquer and mould the human race.

In order to give some unity to our thought we may inquire, under what general head can we sum up the anticipations of Christianity? Israel was organized out of its tribal condition into its federal condition under a prophet, and as a prophet stands for a divine spokesman, Israel federal state may properly be regarded as a theo-