

advanced scholars to be from the hand of Isaiah, we are in possession of a messianic personage who is to mediate the interests of the divine kingdom on earth. (See Isa. 2: 2-4, 9: 1-6, 11: 1-9, 19: 16-25).

Isaiah's views when summed up involve the essential permanence of the state, but not necessarily in its existing elements. This conception while it narrows intensifies his vision and gives it color and concreteness; indeed, any view, however spiritual, which the prophet might have had was necessarily subject to such limitations. To be intelligible it must be expressed in concrete forms, and the only concrete forms which would be intelligible were those brought from the nation's history and experience. It is quite possible that the prophet's conception outstripped his terminology, but to express himself at all he was bound to do so in the forms that past or existing organizations suggested.

In his attempt to depict the future order, as Goodspeed observes, "Though clothed in these temporal forms, the prophet supplied out of the hidden depths of his own communion with the Holy and Majestic one, a foreign, a higher element." Ages were needed for their full realization. The inner meaning of the prophet's utterances, so far from being unfulfilled have been fulfilled and are ever receiving a larger fulfillment in the life and progress of Christianity in the world.

The permanence of Isaiah's new Israel is to be inaugurated and preserved in one or a line of kings of the Davidic order. Emphatically, righteousness shall prevail as the result of his rule, and this in itself is the fruitful source of all other blessings.

Jeremiah, 23: 5-8, finds itself in a most appropriate setting—a group of prophecies relating to the kings, and foretells another king who is to stand out in bold contrast to present successors of the Davidic throne. "Behold the days come saith Jehovah, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely, and this is his name whereby he shall be called: Jehovah our righteousness." If our ideas of a personal Messiah are well founded, then we have portrayed by our prophets, not only the principles and blessings of Christianity, but the One who embodied the principles and mediates its blessings.