

Thus it is natural that the one who is able to speak the mind of God should be enabled to declare what is going to happen.

The prophet spoke, in the first place, for his contemporaries. He declared to them the mind of God. But his message was not limited to his contemporaries. Often it is made clear in the messages of the prophets that they spoke for future generations as well as for their own. The very fact that their writings were written down and carefully preserved is evidence that they were intended for posterity as well as for their contemporaries. It was God's purpose to make available to His people the revelation of His will contained in the Bible. The prophets were His instruments in preparing this book which was to declare His will to all subsequent generations. Viewed in this light the message of the prophets to succeeding generations assumes an importance fully equal to that of their message to their contemporaries.

The purpose of the prophet was to declare the mind of God. This involves (1) the giving of information as to the divine viewpoint. They tell facts about God, about man, and about the relation of God to man.

(2) It also involves, and perhaps even more primarily, a declaration of the will of God as to what His people should do.

(3) It involves further rebuke to those who have disobeyed the known will of God.