

1 gers and fortune tellers, occasionally patron-  
2 ized even by seemingly sophisticated leaders, so  
3 great is the desire to know what is ahead. The  
4 mere fact that individuals in many lands have  
5 claimed to predict the future is hardly evidence  
6 of the existence of a movement at all comparable  
7 to the activity of the prophets.

8 On examination of the thousands of ancient  
9 records that have been discovered one finds that  
10 the amount of material that can be presented in  
11 support of the claim that there existed in any  
12 of these countries a movement really similar to  
13 the prophetic movement in Israel is extremely  
14 meagre. Although the Ugaritic material tells  
15 much about the Canaanite religion and culture in  
16 the period prior to the Israelite entrance into  
17 Canaan, it has as yet yielded very little that  
18 could be considered as in any way supplying a  
19 background for Heb. prophetism. Among all the  
20 archaeological discoveries that have been made,  
21 just about the only one that has been alleged to  
22 show a Canaanite background for the Heb. pro-  
23 phets is not a document from Canaan, but one  
24 from Egypt. Much has been made of this Egyptian  
25 papyrus written in the 11th cent. B.C. in which

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