

A. A. MacRae

purposes of prophecy.

As noted above, the purpose that relates to a larger portion of the words spoken or written by the prophets than any other does, is rebuke for sin and unfaithfulness. Such rebuke is often driven home by predictions about the punishment that God intends to send. Many of these predictions are conditional in nature and consist of declarations as to what will happen to the nation if it does not turn away from its sin. There were many occasions, however, when the prophet spoke to people whose disobedience to God had reached the point where punishment was inevitable. As a result the prophecies contain many direct and unconditional predictions about coming disasters. An interesting instance occurred where Samuel, after his death, appeared to Saul, who was seeking advice in the greatest crisis of his life, and gave the king an unconditional prediction of God's punishment (I Sam 28:18-19). Many similar predictions were given: e.g., I Sam 3:11-14; II Sam 12:10-12; I Kings 13:1-3; 21:19-24; II Kings 7:2b; Jer 29:32; 51:37; Ezek 30:22-23; Luke 19:43-44; II Thess 1:8-9; 2:8.