

## VII. Notes on Prophetic Understanding and Criticism

In this section we deal largely with the latter prophets and I have already explained that division and designation. These are, to a large extent, the "signed books" and have a strong predictive element to them although that does not diminish from the historical element very apparent as well. Our material in these notes first offers some introductory thinking for understanding the prophets and then moves to some of the critical ideas concerning prophetic literature.

### A. Notes in understanding the prophetic literature.

1. General characteristics of the prophetic works:
  - a. The concept of the immediate revelation of the mind of Jehovah.
  - b. The wide use of speech figure, poetic image, and literary devices.
  - c. An arrangement of purpose of theme in preference to a strict chronology
  - d. The influence of culture critique
  - e. Dependence on the law
2. Definitions:
  - a. Prophet...one who speaks for another. There are three major designations in the O.T. but in all cases, the prophet is one who both  
--foretells and  
--forthtells
  - b. Prophecy
  - c. Prediction
3. Problems in the study of the prophetic books
  - a. Language:  
--literal  
--figurativ