

of the gods is attributed to jealousy of the dwellers on the earth. The Bible makes no such suggestion, but unconsciously the idea has arisen as a suspicion in the mind of many readers. The natural unwillingness of any reverent mind to entertain such a thought too frankly may explain to some extent the fact that this side of the matter has been so largely passed over in silence. The true reasons, however, are perfectly intelligible and entirely worthy of God. The permanent establishment of one universal empire would have meant endless tyranny and oppression. Even as it is the course of the world's history has been marked by all too much of these, but it would have been infinitely worse if such a system of government had obtained as would have placed all authority and power in the hands of a small coterie of rulers at one centre. Human liberty would have remained for ever unknown and the triumph of human rights would have remained for ever impossible. Furthermore, the world's progress in civilization would have been undoubtedly retarded and the world's deliverance from the domination of sin indefinitely delayed. For man's successful development of his ideal state numerous sociological experiments were necessary. By separating mankind into nationalities and allowing each to develop after its own way according to its peculiar conditions, many of these experiments have been carried on simultaneously, and the successes of each have become the gain of all. It would have lengthened the process beyond all computation had only one series of experiments been possible for the whole race. It might have even defeated God's plan for man's salvation altogether, through the utter stagnation of the human mind and the degeneracy of all alike into a hopelessly corrupt mass, such as took place in the antediluvian world. To us the most interesting experiment for the world's good ever made was that carried out in the history of Judaism. It was rendered possible only by making Israel a separate people. If Babylonia and Egypt, Greece and Rome, have made any permanent contributions to civilization, it was because they too were left free