

fend His people, thus causing righteousness to be vindicated on the stage of the world's history. "Pious," "poor," "meek" are beginning, in some places, to mean almost the same thing, and the hope is cherished that the "meek shall inherit the earth" when the judgment comes which will overthrow the arrogant, faithless Jews as well as the proud heathen oppressors. The Messianic hope finds clear if not frequent expression, and probably many phrases that have for us lost their eschatological flavour originally possessed it. There is not much movement in the direction of the belief in personal immortality; we may find a suggestion of it in 73, but even this is not generally accepted. We must say that in the actual period of Hebrew religion the hopes concerning the future continued to have a national point of view which was not largely displaced by the more personal hope. The continuance in life or the resurrection of the individual was a belief held in connexion with the hopes of a final and complete redemption of the nation, under the reign of the Messianic King (72). Thus, beginning at a point about a thousand years earlier than the present period, we found a few tribes with loose organization and a simple faith in Yahweh as their God.. We have seen the building up out of this material into two kingdoms, which after a brief fitful existence were destroyed, to be replaced by a Church community in Judæa with an elaborate ecclesiastical organization and a large body of theological beliefs. The thing that grew through all the political and civil changes of a millenium was the religious faith and theological thought. The earlier revelations were received in and through the actual political conflicts of the time; in later days theology became for a while the chief business of the nation.

*The Significance of the Maccabean Period.*—This small nation was called to fight for its existence and its faith in the early years of the second century B.C., and the result showed that a positive dogmatic faith had power to inspire heroic zeal and lead "the saints" to victory. In the preceding century the Jews in the Greek colony of Alexandria in Egypt had grown in