

literary activity, it is no doubt here in a simple form and has a real *ethical* character. Yahweh had chosen His people, and would give them support against their foes and provide a home for them. Here, though the situation is a narrow national one, it is at a higher plane than any mere "nature" worship or absolutely local deity. The God who goes forth to war with and for His people, whose presence is manifested in the storm or in great volcanic shocks, is a mighty God who is likely to be a conqueror in many senses. All the battles of Israel were fought in the spirit of a high religious faith, and even in early times it was felt that defeat might be due not to the weakness of their God, but to failure on the part of His servants to keep His laws. True, these laws might be regarded as largely a matter of ritual, for, as we shall see, the contribution of the great prophets did add something in this respect; but the idea of God is beginning to act as a bond of union between tribes that are similar and yet different, and is beginning to show a freedom of movement and capability of progress that has the promise of great things, however dimly apprehended at the time. Thus, though we are compelled to view him through the varied traditions that have gathered round his name in the course of several centuries, we may still regard Moses as, in a real sense, a man of prophetic spirit, the founder of the Hebrew faith. That his work was real, as far as it went, is proved by the fact that the religion was not completely destroyed by the fierce, chaotic struggles which followed immediately on the entrance into Palestine. In many cases conquerors have been absorbed by the peoples of the land they have entered. In this case the same effect followed to some extent, but the original religious impulse was never completely lost, and it gave to its possessors the power to absorb necessary elements of faith without losing their distinctive character. From Moses down to Philo men boldly claimed the best in this world as belonging to "Yahweh," and so as the property of His people. The Christian religion has, with more catholicity, inherited the same spirit, claiming that all things are to be brought into submission to Christ. In other countries the territory of the god increased with the growth of the city;