

and public service, for a just administration of civic affairs, and a sympathetic care for the poor. For the first time in the history of the world we find what we call "social morality" presented as the highest expression of the religious life, and this is done with remarkable clearness and boldness in the name of Israel's God. It is evident that such teaching is ethical in the noblest sense. But what do we mean when we say that because it is ethical it is monotheistic? The answer to this is that it is a kind of teaching that implies the thought of one God for the world. And on further reflection, if their central message is accepted, this implication must formulate itself in a sharper, more dogmatic fashion. Judgment is about to come upon the nation in both sections, not on account of the capricious anger of the deity at insufficient tribute in the form of sacrifices, but because of the people's failure to reach a certain standard of righteousness (Am. 3/2, Is. 5/1-7). Yahweh punishes His own people for their lack of goodness, this being regarded as morality and not mere religiosity. Further, the same standard is applied to other tribes and nations: they are to be judged not because they are non-Israelites, but because of their greed, cruelty, and inhumanity (Am. 1). We to-day may argue that because there is one God there should be one standard of morality for public and private life, and one law of justice and kindness among men of different creeds and nations. But the historical movement worked in the other direction. Men of true spiritual insight learned first that their God required real service and not coarse sacrifices or magical rites, and then they advanced to the belief that the kingdom of this God of righteousness was not bounded by geographical or tribal limitations. But every step of the way had to be fought, for old enemies of formalism and sectarianism constantly returned in new forms, and the Jews preserved for others what they did not fully realize for themselves. These great beliefs were rooted in the sacred past of their nation, and it took a long time to bring out their full significance; but now it stands in a clear light as a central contribution to religious thought, as one of the highest gifts of revelation. The nation might perish, but God and righteousness must rule.