

Ammonites and Seirites at Tekoa when all three "helped to destroy one another." Still a *fourth* mark of authenticity may be traced in the designation given to the spot where Jehoshaphat and his soldiers offered up their thanksgivings for victory before returning to Jerusalem. Had nothing like the scene reported by the chronicler occurred in the *Wady Bereikât*, it is difficult to see how Joel should have come so soon to appropriate the name Valley of Jehoshaphat, to describe the theatre of Jehovah's judgments upon the nations for their evil treatment of Israel. That within less than half a century he could do so without challenge is the best proof that he and his contemporaries alike preserved still fresh in their memories a recollection of the splendid victory of the good king Jehoshaphat near the *Emek-Berachah*.

3. The *practical uses* of such a passage in ancient history as the foregoing are manifold and varied. Its outstanding lessons are of a kind that might be studied with advantage even in this highly cultured nineteenth century by individuals and communities, by churches and states. It emphasises, to begin with, a truth which in these days of materialistic science is much in danger of being driven to the wall, forgotten or ignored even when not formally denied—the truth, namely, that God still interposes in the movements of men and nations on the earth. He may not, indeed, endow any now as He did Jahaziel with the special gift of prediction, and may have long since ceased to make His active interference with mundane affairs visible by means of miracle; yet has He not on that account erected an impassable barrier between Himself and the soul of man, nor has He utterly withdrawn from all supervision and control of this insignificant planet: rather He has poured out on all flesh such spiritual influences as completely supersede and render unnecessary miraculous endowments of prophecy and such like; while in a fashion as real though not as conspicuous He lays His finger on the lines of natural causation, and constrains these while working out their own special ends to accomplish His sovereign behests. Again, the narrative suggests that a kingdom's best defence does not lie in monster armies and fleets, but in a