

accompanies them, testify his acquaintance with a more secure and elevated position—even that which the believer finds in the unchangeable attributes of Jehovah.

The quotation which I have made from the book of Ecclesiastes intimates the apparent absence of all distinction between the righteous and the wicked, in so far as they are equally prosperous or unfortunate. One event happens to both. They walk together in life, and they meet together in death. But The Preacher knew and taught that, however much this distinction may appear to be lost in the common participation of those whom it concerns in good and evil, it is nevertheless faithfully preserved in God's moral administration of the universe—not alone in the respective rewards of a judgment day, but also in the conscious enjoyment of God's favor and protection in the present life. It is remarkable that the ninth chapter from which the passage is taken begins in the verse immediately preceding, with a declaration to this effect—a most significant silence being preserved with reference to the wicked—"the righteous and the wise and their works are in the hand of God." In another place he goes a step farther, declaring not only that many of the occurrences of life happen equally to the righteous and the wicked,