

forces of Assyria were destroyed, or the grasp of the Egyptians was relaxed, taught them that it was *not* true that "Providence always fights on the side of the strongest battalions." He condemned their sins and promised punishment, such sins as He punishes in any individual, idolatry, falsehood, idleness, drunkenness, sensuality ; He taught them that, however long suffering He might be, He could not tolerate wickedness, and that for their sins they must either repent or perish. He taught them, and, through their history, He teaches other nations that sin brings punishment and decay, and that "righteousness exalts a nation."

And God's dealings with the Jews were but an *example* of the way in which He deals, and has always been dealing, with other nations. They were, for special purposes, a chosen race and a peculiar people, but His having selected them from the nations of the earth for a particular work by no means implies that He had nothing to do with others. The very record of the early dispersion of mankind testifies to the fact that those scattered children were acknowledged by God as belonging to His family, while, ever and anon, through Old Testament history we have brief glimpses of the way in which the King of heaven and earth was dealing with the heathen ; how, e.g ; Egypt, Assyria, and Persia were used by him for special purposes, and led by Him through special experience, and had, at times, His will revealed to them by His prophets. The good which appeared among them was due to His guidance ; the vigor and prosperity they enjoyed were owing to their fulfilment of the righteousness that they knew, while all their evil and their disasters came from rebellion against His will, in so far as He had revealed it to them. Nor has God's rule over the kingdoms of the earth ever, for one moment, ceased. He has never, at any time, withdrawn himself from the sphere of human activities into some distant heavens. He still leads the nations of the world, often by ways that they know not of, still employs them for the fulfilment of His purposes, dim and mysterious though these may sometimes seem to us. He still punishes iniquity and rewards obedience ; still, as of old, he carries out impartially the decree of which He