

regarded as two sides of a complete life. The history of the nation was a constant struggle against false ideas of religion and false ideas of morality. When the priests were carried away with the idea that religion consisted simply in rites and ceremonies, and the kings were seeking the pomp and luxury of the East, and the people were falling into wickedness and idolatry, it was left to the later prophets to become the true expounders of religion and the moral law.



HIGH PRIEST

The Hebrew Literature; the Bible.—The idea of monotheism was the inspiring idea of the Hebrew literature, as it was of the Hebrew religion. This literature is contained in what we call the Old Testament, and comprises (1) the Pentateuch, or the legal books; (2) the historical books; (3) the poetical books; and (4) the books of the prophets. In their literary genius the Hebrews surpassed all other Oriental nations. In the writings of their poets and prophets we find the highest examples of religious fervour and imaginative description. The Psalms of David, the Book of Job, and the Prophecy of Isaiah, considered merely as literary compositions, are unsurpassed in the literature of any people. When we consider the writings of the Hebrews and their religious influence upon the civilized world, we must assign to this nation a high place among the historical peoples of ancient times.

SYNOPSIS FOR REVIEW

I. PHœNICIA AND ANCIENT COMMERCE.—Phœnicia and its People.—Phœnician Commerce.—Phœnician Colonies.—The Phœnician Alphabet.

II. JUDEA AND THE HEBREWS.—The Hebrew Nation.—Periods of Jewish History.—The Hebrew Religion; Monotheism.—The Hebrew Literature; the Bible.