

poorly conceal. Because as certain as outbreaks of nationalistic spirit are found in this later time, so the actual problem is not touched that lies in the connection between the world-wide hope and that materialization of an holy Volk oriented to Zion in the same announcements as Dtjesaja (^{Hagai}?), Zacharia^h; Malachi. It is the complexity of the covenant-and election conception which emerge with great might here, and it will appear to us as a decisive weakness of the entire work, that it only parenthetically and marginally gives attention to this basic fact in the life of Israel and gives no room for it in such an important chapter as that of the divine relationship.

213⁶ Indeed, here the deeper reason for the unsatisfactory utilization of sources and that contradictory picture of "development" might lie, which we encounter in this study. It won't be questioned regarding the special kind of relationship of Jahweh to his Volk, that from the witness of the entire Old Testament is founded in a chosen act of God, from which everything else must be viewed, but, on the contrary, from a decided evaluation of certain religious basic concepts, which serve as indisputable actualities, one seeks in the Biblical documents for the "contour lines," upon which the shape of these concepts comes. Since, however, these concepts stem not only from the New Testament, but are strongly taken over from the Hellenistic conceptual possessions, so its no wonder they enter that, in antiquity but also in the New Testament only in a broken fashion. It accords with the mentioned lack of basic formulation of questions that the New Testament event of the Church also is transformed into a purposeful creation of "converted individuals" rather than that of a God-instituted organism before the existence