

The Hebrews and Their Covenant with God

I. Henotheism, Monotheism, and the Hebrews

A. Biblical Chronology

ca. 2000 B.C. — Age of Patriarchs

- Abram [Abraham] m. Sarai [Sarah]

- Ishmael (son of Abraham and Hagar)

- Isaac (son of Abraham and Sarah) m. Rebecca

- Esau (son of Isaac and Rebecca)

- Jacob [Israel] (son of Isaac and Rebecca)

- m. Rachel (and Leah, Bilhah and Zilpah)

- 12 sons (→ 12 “tribes”) and 1 daughter

ca. 1800 B.C. — Some “tribes” move into Egypt

I. Henotheism, Monotheism, and the Hebrews

A. Biblical Chronology

13th cent. B.C. — The Exodus: Did Moses Exist?

a. No—Julius Wellhausen, *Prolegomena to the History of Ancient Israel* (1883)

b. Yes—Paul Johnson, *A History of the Jews* (1987)

1304–1262 B.C. or 1290–1248 B.C. or 1279–1237 B.C. — Reign of Rameses II

after 1200 B.C. — 12 Hebrew “tribes” form a confederation (judges)

I. Henotheism, Monotheism, and the Hebrews

A. Biblical Chronology

ca. 1020 B.C. — Saul becomes king

ca. 1000–962 B.C. — David rules as king

ca. 961–922 B.C. — Solomon rules as king

ca. 922 B.C. — Northern Kingdom (Israel) and Southern Kingdom (Judah) divide

722 B.C. — Assyrians Conquer Israel (10 lost “tribes”)

I. Henotheism, Monotheism, and the Hebrews

A. Biblical Chronology

612 B.C. — Babylonians defeat Assyrians

597 B.C. — Army of Nebuchadnezzar II takes Jerusalem

586 B.C. — Army of Nebuchadnezzar II captures Judah
(Babylonian Captivity)

539 B.C. — The Persians under Cyrus II conquer Babylonia
– Babylonian Jews return to Judah

I. Henotheism, Monotheism, and the Hebrews

B. Terminology

1. Nomenclature for the people we are discussing

a. Martu

b. Hebrews < Habiri (Hapiri, Apriru) = refugees

– alternatively: < Eber (Gen. 11) or , *eber* =
“*other side*” of *Euphrates*

c. Jews, Judaism < Judah

BY THE TIME HE DIED, THE REALM WAS ALREADY IN REVOLT. **RIMUSH**, SARGON'S SON AND HEIR, LOST HIS LIFE WHEN DISLOYAL AIDES BASHED IN HIS HEAD WITH **CLAY TABLETS**.



STILL, THE EMPIRE DIDN'T COLLAPSE COMPLETELY UNTIL THE TIME OF SARGON'S GREAT-GRANDSON **SHARKALI-SHARRI**, ABOUT 2230 B.C.

AFTER A PERIOD OF ANARCHY, SUMERIANS AGAIN CONQUERED SUMER, AND FOR 100 YEARS THEIR CIVILIZATION FLOURISHED AS NEVER BEFORE. THE CAPITAL, **UR**, GREW HUGE ON THE WEALTH OF EMPIRE.



THEN SUMER WAS INVADED BY A **FRESH** WAVE OF SEMITES: NOT SOPHISTICATES LIKE SARGON, BUT DESERT NOMADS KNOWN AS THE **MARTU!**



SUMERIAN VIEW OF THE MARTU:

"THE MARTU, WHO KNOWS NO GRAIN, THE MARTU WHO KNOWS NO HOUSE NOR TOWN, THE SLOB OF THE MOUNTAINS... THE MARTU WHO DIGS UP TRUFFLES... WHO EATS RAW MEAT, WHO HAS NO HOUSE DURING HIS LIFETIME, WHO IS NOT BURIED AFTER HIS DEATH..."

ALL THE GIRLS ARE CRAZY FOR THEM!

I. Henotheism, Monotheism, and the Hebrews

B. Terminology

2. Nomenclature for the deity

- a. Elohim (= God, god, gods)
- b. El Shaddai (= the almighty god)
- c. Yahweh (Jahweh < YHWH + Adonai = YaHoWaH =
Jehovah)
- d. Adonai (= Lord)

Polytheism → Henotheism → Monotheism

Genesis 1:1

Standard translation:

“In the beginning, God (*Elohim*) created the heavens and the earth.”

Alternative translation:

“In the beginning a god (*elohim*) created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 3:22

After Adam eats the fruit from the tree of knowledge:

“Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil....”

Genesis 11:7

When mankind is trying to reach heaven by building the Tower of Babel:

“Come, let us go down, and there confuse their language that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

Exodus 32:4

When Aaron instructs the Hebrews, who have just escaped from Egypt, to manufacture a statue of a calf made of gold:

“These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.”

Freud, *Moses and Monotheism*

“m-s-s” = “child”

Moses

Ra-m(o)ses = “child of Ra”

Aton

Adonai

I. Henotheism, Monotheism, and the Hebrews

Video: Abba Ebban, *A People Is Born* (pt. 2), from “*Heritage: Civilization and the Jews*”

II. The Pentateuch as Historical Source

A. Did Moses Write the Pentateuch?

1. Problem of the script

Canaanitish (Phoenician) {
Hebrew
Aramaic

THE TORAH

Genesis Exodus
Leviticus Numbers
Deuteronomy

THE PROPHETS

THE FORMER PROPHETS

Joshua Judges
I Samuel 2 Samuel
I Kings 2 Kings

THE LATTER PROPHETS

Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel
Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah
Jonah Micah Nahum Habbakkuk
Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

THE WRITINGS

POETRY

Psalms Proverbs Job

THE FIVE SCROLLS

Song of Solomon Ruth Lamentations
Ecclesiastes Esther

PROPHECY

Daniel

HISTORY

I Chronicles II Chronicles
Ezra Nehemiah

Figure 1: Books of the Hebrew Bible.

II. The Pentateuch as Historical Source

A. Did Moses Write the Pentateuch?

2. Evidence of the Text

- a. duplication of narrative accounts
- b. internal contradictions
- c. anachronisms and problems of chronology
- d. diverse literary styles
- e. shifts and interruptions in the narrative

II. The Pentateuch as Historical Source

A. Did Moses Write the Pentateuch?

3. Possibly Four Narratives – “Documentary Hypothesis”

- a. J—deity referred to as Yahweh (Ger. *Jahve*)
- b. E—deity referred to as Elohim
- c. P—emphasizes role of priests
- d. D—associated mostly with Deuteronomy

II. The Pentateuch as Historical Source

B. The Challenge of Biblical Criticism

1. Traditional Literal and Figurative Interpretation
2. Naturalistic Interpretation—needs to be decoded
3. Bible Reflects Time When It Was Written
 - a. Levite priesthood from Shiloh (ca. 700 b.c.)
 - b. Aaronid priesthood
 - c. Jeremiah and his scribe Baruch of Neriyah
 - d. Ezra (5th century B.C.)
 - e. minimalists
4. Hebrew law derived from Mesopotamian Law

II. The Pentateuch as Historical Source

C. The Significance of the Hebrew/Jewish Covenant