

Holt, John Marshall, The Patriarchs of Israel (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press) 1964

p. 116(cont'd) millennium. In between we do not know about the use of camels, but it is worthy of note that the representations of camels from the earlier age all come from settled sites. Nomads and seminomads do not leave behind them the records and evidences that settled peoples do, so it might be that they continued to use them right along. This would not disprove the anachronism of the mention of camels in Genesis, but it prevents our being positive that it is an anachronism. The latest written on the subject known to this writer agrees essentially with Albright but acknowledges that the question is still open.⁵² (52 Jozef M. A. Janssen, "Egyptological Remarks on the Story of Joseph in Genesis," Jaarbericht van Het Vooraziatisch-Egyptisch Genootschap, XIV (1955-1956), p. 63

p. 207 Having the precedent of the deduction of historical data from legendary tales by the great critics, the writer has aimed at the same goal, that of discovering what the legends can tell us of the actual life and times of the people of whom they speak. In this we have had the advantage of the vast body of archaeological findings, which enable us to reconstruct the life of the ancient world with often startling fullness, and we consequently find more data for history in the legends of Genesis than an earlier generation did.

p. 211 With the necessary caution, then we can speak with greater respect for the "reliability" of the sources of the Biblical traditions of the patriarchal age. Both pre-exilic and postexilic sources took the trouble to provide a setting of plausible historicity for their events, mentioning places and peoples with whom the patriarchal ancestors could be connected. It was not the way of the tradition to supply this plausible historicity by the citation of definite dates, specific personalities, and the like, but rather to indicate the general location and the period that served as the background for the events being recited. In providing this material the J, E, and P editors were not thrown back upon their imaginations; they mentioned real nations and tribes in known places.

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