

Otwell, John H., I Will Be Your God, 1967

p. 26-27 In Genesis 14.14, we are told that Abram pursued an enemy as far as Dan. Dan was an Israelite tribe which lived originally along the seacoast northwest of Jerusalem. It moved north after another Israelite tribe pushed it out of its territory. The tribe of Dan then captured Laish, renaming it Dan. The story is told in Judges 17.1-18.31. We are most interested here in Judges 18.27-29 Since Genesis 14.14 asserts that Abram pursued an enemy as far north as the city of Dan, the statement could not have been written before the tribe of Dan existed; before it had entered Palestine, before it had moved north, or before it had captured and renamed Laish. Genesis 14.14 is not a prediction. It is simply a casual reference to a place name which the author and his readers both knew. We cannot date this passage except to say that it was written after the capture and renaming of Laish. But this would have been centuries after the time of Abram, since the tribe of Dan is said to have been distant descendants of Abram.

((Other examples given by the author include Isa. 1.4-9; 40.1-55.13; 7.1-9; 2 Kings 18.14-16))

p. 29f.((The third method of higher criticism is called patternism or criticism by comparative religions))

p. 30 It was thought for centuries that the Old Testament reported a unique culture. = This belief is now known to have been wrong. Linguists and archaeologists have proved that Israelite culture was a part of what is called Semitic culture. Biblical Hebrew is a Semitic dialects, closely related to Ugaritic, Akkadian, Aramaic, and Arabic. Much Old Testament law parallels Babylonian law. ((Patternism seeks to supply to 20th century readers of the O.T. that which the writers of the O.T. assumed that their readers knew about their own culture))

p. 32 ((The last method of higher criticism is form criticism)). ((Ancient Israel's oral culture trained them to use their memories. They had fixed ways of expressing themselves ~~called~~ ~~formed~~ which we call "forms".))