

*Development*

W. F. Albright, New Horizons in Biblical Research, OUP, London, 1966

p. 31

"The empirical logic of the Hebrew Bible also appears in Israel's religion. In Bronze Age Palestine and Syria there was a continual fluctuation of sex, function, and identity among the gods, as we know from the rich literature now at our disposal. The principle of contradiction is flouted at every turn. It is quite inappropriate to ask: how did the God of nature become the God of ethics in Israel?--because the god of nature was also lord of ethics from remote pre-Israelite times. In Assyria and Babylonia the sun-god was also patron of justice, and there was a similar relation in the case of all high gods. Proto-logical polytheisms did not make a logical distinction between nature and ethics."