

Enumerative style found in P, very early

To say that the enumerative style of P is late is absurd inasmuch as it is to be found in the Fārah tablets, from about 2600 B.C., which "contain lists of gods, illustrating a type of school activity which continued into much later times and produced the great canonical list of gods from the First Dynasty of Babylon (1730-1530 B.C.)." p. 46 in W. F. Albright's Archaeology and the Religion of Israel, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press) Fourth Edition, 1956.

List of 12 Spies in Num. 13.4-16 considered ancient

p. 103 It is quite possible that the framework of twelve tribes antedates the Conquest, but the variations in the biblical lists, though slight in themselves, prove that the individual names were never so important as the framework - a deduction which other evidence renders virtually certain.¹³

Footnote 13 (p. 201) On this subject see especially M. Noth, Das System der Zwölf Stamme Israels (1930), p. 3-28, though I cannot agree with him in many details: e.g., his impression that the list of the twelve spies in Num. 13.4-16 is "very late" (sehr jung, p. 19) is contradicted by the consistent archaism of the names, where they are fully preserved. Even the hypocoristica (abbreviated names) show archaic forms, as in the numerous names ending in y, which are often paralleled among the Ugaritic personal names of the fourteenth century B.C. which are now known to us. I regard the list in question as very ancient and important, though I should not care to insist that it referred originally to the spies.

W.F. Albright, Ibid, pp. 102, 201