

17.1.5

Harrelson, p. 31-32

The critics who followed Wellhausen had supposed that the early Israelites were simple nomadic tribes who lived in relative isolation from the cultured peoples of the ancient world. They assumed that the sagas of Genesis, for example, represented a fairly "primitive" stage in the development of human civilization. Little historical reminiscence was held to be reflected in the folklore and saga of the earliest book of the Bible. It is now unmistakable, however, that the early Israelites were in rather close touch with the civilizations which flourished in the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates and in the rich land of northern Syria. Contacts with Egypt were also much closer than had sometimes been supposed. The materials found in the Book of Genesis are not, as a result, historical in all respects. But these materials reflect the legal, social, and religious customs and beliefs of the neighboring peoples. The Book of Genesis thus embodies a generally accurate portrayal of life and thought from the period 2000 - 1200 B.C. and be evaluated in quite a different way than had become customary in biblical studies.

Gunkel, Herman, The Legends of Genesis, 1901 (Intro. by W.F. Albright, 1964)

See 17.1-8

p. ix of Intro. by Albright: "Wellhausen proves to have been wrong almost throughout, whereas Gunkel was right much of the time." See 17.1-8

p. 97 (Gunkel) Wellhausen's conjecture (Prolegomena, p.323) that Abraham is probably the latest personage among the patriarchs, is untenable.

Hooke, S.H., Peake's Commentary on the Bible, p. 169

" . . . but its [the Graf-Wellhausen hypothesis] chief defect was an over-simplification of that history. This was due in part to its academic and purely literary approach to the material, and also to the lack of knowledge concerning the background of Israel's religious development, which has now been made available through the discovery of so many new original sources."

See File XI -12 W. F. Albright

See File XI-62 Sandmel expresses doubts as to the existence of such a theory as an E code or a J code.