

Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, "Biblical Criticism", DeVries (cont'd p. 3)

offers no indication of its underlying traditions and documents. Moreover, the study of the religions of the ancient Near East, particularly that of the Canaanites, the Hebrews' nearest neighbors, is making scholars less sure that Yahwism must be younger than the time of the patriarchs. At any rate OT critics now generally acknowledge the uniqueness and grandeur of Yahwism, and they are ready to admit that the eighth-century prophets who so forcibly preached monotheism were heirs, and not simply originators, of a great religious tradition.