

That would be before the time of Christ for a century at least that they had the ~~Penteteuch~~ Penteteuch. That the critics assume that they did not get it until the time of the return from exile to the time of Nehemiah. They assume that that's when they got the Penteteuch. That is purely an assumption. There is no reason why they should not have had it at this time. It is very important in a situation like this that we do not allow anyone to tell us that the Samaritans did not have the Penteteuch until the time of Nehemiah. No one can prove that. There is just as much probability that they had it at this time that they did not have it until later. In fact, we have more proof. If a priest came to teach them the ²⁷matter of the God of the land, it would be rather strange indeed if he did not bring at least the Penteteuch.

Now this is then the beginning of the Samaritans, a people who were a thorn in the flesh of the Jews after their return from exile, a people ^{with} whom in the time of Christ the Jews had no dealings, a people whom the Lord himself thought it worthwhile to go to with the Gospel during the days of ~~his~~ His earthly pilgrimage when He was turning His attention almost exclusively to the Jews, and a people among whom in the very early days of the apostolic church the Gospel of Christ was brought, and a great revival brought among them before any great movement among the Gentiles. So they are a people who occupy a half-way position between the Jews and the Gentiles.

(Question) That is to quite an extent a matter of speculation but it would seem to me that ~~it~~ there are lot of words talked about which were not yet written yet at this time. The book of II Kings was not certainly complete because there are quite a few chapters more in it here. How much then would have been available to them at that time. Of the great writing prophets none of them, that is of the major prophets, none had yet written. Only a few of the minor prophets had as yet written. Had their books acquired a wide distribution in the northern kingdom. We have no reason to think that they would necessarily have at this time. Consequently the books that would have been available to people of the northern