IV. Religion of Canaanites.

a. Importance of Ugarit texts.

1. Very early in content. 2. Applicable to Phoenicia and Palestine. 3. Show full religious and mythological system. b. Canaanite gods. 1. El and Ashirat at head of pantheon. 2. Baal = Hadad = Al'iyan active god. 3. Gods and goddesses of fertility. c. Fertility and revivification in Ugarit epics. d. Sacrificial ritual like later Israelite. D. Hebrew background of Israelite origins. 179-184 I. Geographical and ethnic background. a. Hebrew origins near Harran in northern Mesopotamia confirmed by 1. Congruence of names in Mari documents, 2. Customary law visible in Nuzi documents, and 3. Mythological inheritance from Mesopotamia. b. Ethnic and linguistic relations complicated. 1. Aramean affinities clouded. A'. Patriarchs may have spoken Aramean before Canaanite-Hebrew. 2. Probable relations with mixed, landless "Apiru. c. Pre-Mosaic history. 1. Patriarchs appear to have been real persons. A'. Discovery corroborates Patriarchal stories in general. 2. Sojourn in Egypt must be historical. A'. A binding tradition. B'. Egyptian names of Moses and the Aaronids. C'. Clear connection with Hyksos movement. II. Religious background. 184-189 a. Names provide key to gods of pre-Mosaic times. 1. Names contain an invocation to a deity at child's birth. b. Principle Israelite deity was mountain thunder-god (Baal = Hadad = Shaddai). c. Early Hebrew triad may have been El, a mother goddess, and son Shaddai, as well as other gods. d. Patriarchal group had family relation to its deity. 1. Each head of a clan had right to choose his own god. 2. Tribal and personal religion was related to same deity. E. The religion of Moses. 189-193 I. Documentary sources are reliable. a. J and E official versions of 11th century, written down between 925 and 750. b. Variation from original tradition unlikely. c. P is from a scribal circle and was probably transmitted carefully. II. Historical situation confirmed by non-Biblical material. 193-196 a. Moses a Hebrew, born and trained in Egypt. b. Excavations corroborate story of the Oppression. c. Exodus ca. 1290, Conquest of Canaan perhaps 1250-1200. a. Sinai, Midian, and Negeb without sedentary population before 10th century. 1. But Edom was beginning to have towns, and 2. Sinai and Midian had worked mines. III. The Monotheism of Moses. 196-203 a. Moses founder of Israelite commonwealth and framer of religious system. 1. Tradition compelling.