

*Development*

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William Neil, HARPER'S BIBLE COMMENTARY, 1962

Pages 73-74

// "When we reflect on this conception of God which Israel held, setting side by side what YHWH meant to Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos and Hosea--a God who acts in human affairs--with the religious beliefs of any other nation in the ancient world--a medley of nature cults and mythologies--it is obvious that there is a radical difference which cannot be explained by gradual development from primitive beliefs, and which constitutes a unique faith among the religions of the world.

"When we ask further how and when this unique faith and this distinctive conception of God came to Israel, we cannot be content to attribute its origins to the great eighth-century prophets. Amos and his successors never claimed to do any more than proclaim truths that their countrymen had neglected or forgotten. Again and again they point back to the Exodus as the moment when Israel's unique faith was born, and we are irresistibly led to see the mind of Moses as the instrument which God selected to reveal this unique conception of himself to the people he had chosen, and through them to the whole world."