

The Legends of Genesis, Hermann Gunkel. Intro by W. F. Albright.

Introduction

- p. x Thanks to these finds of written documents, supplemented by field-work, it is now possible to say with confidence that the stories of the Patriarchs contain a much higher proportion of matter bearing directly on history than they do of material obviously legendary or even mythological in origin - though the latter is also valuable for the light it sheds on the higher culture, religion, and literature of the Hebrews. For instance, we can now explain the occupational background of the early Patriarchs in a way totally impossible until a few years ago.
- p. xi . . . . . So far as the evidence then indicated, Gunkel saw truly; his mistakes were inevitable two-thirds of a century ago, and do not detract from his epochal place in the history of biblical scholarship. . . . .

W. F. Albright

Baltimore, April 1964