

that Freud's theory here reaches one of the lowest points ever attained by Biblical criticism or by psychoanalytic theory. In addition, investigation of the teaching of Akhenaton has brought out two very important differences between his beliefs and those of the Old Testament: (1) while the teaching of Akhenaton is actually monotheistic and hence quite unique in ancient Egypt, its monotheism consists in belief in the material disk of the sun as the sole god; (2) the religion of Akhenaton is entirely lacking in ethical elements and consequently utterly different from the ethical monotheism which finds such superb expression in the writings of Amos, Isaiah, and the other writing prophets. It is much more reasonable to think that Akhenaton, who had close relationship with Asia and with Asiatics, was, either directly or through his mother, affected by a teaching that represented a corruption of the revelation that God had given to the Hebrews, than to believe that Hebrew monotheism was in any way derived from the teaching of Akhenaton.

### III. Mesopotamia.

More materials of importance in relation to the Bible have come from Mesopotamia than from any other area, even including Palestine. Some of the incidents are less dramatic than those involving Egypt, but they are of great importance.

#### A. The Geographical Background.

Mesopotamia, like Egypt, is a region of very great fertility, well adapted for the rise of a great civilization. As the name suggests, it differs from Egypt in being the result not of one river but of two. The Tigris and the Euphrates bring water and fertility to a region that would otherwise be very dry and desolate, though not nearly as dry as Egypt.

This region was not as isolated as Egypt. The wilderness around it was far less barren, and contained some tribes who could bring danger to the fertile