

ment, one realizes how much they have in common in ideas, vocabulary, and poetic structure. But one realizes also that the ideas presented by the Canaanite material are transformed in the Bible to thoughts of incomparably higher standard. By comparing the Old Testament to the literature of Ugarit one fully understands the lofty, spiritual and ethical conception of the monotheistic theology of YHWH throughout the Old Testament and its immeasurable superiority to the religion of the Canaanites.

B. Similarities and Connections between Ugaritic Literature and the Old Testament

1. The Ugaritic language.

Since the early days of the deciphering of the Ugaritic alphabet and the beginning of the formation of our knowledge of Ugaritic grammar two schools developed claiming different relationship of Ugaritic to Hebrew. The main exponents of one school are W. F. Albright, H. L. Ginsberg, J. A. Montgomery, Zellig Harris, who consider Ugaritic to be a Canaanite dialect. The other school represented by H. Bauer and A. Goetze holds that Ugaritic is a Semitic language somewhere between Phoenician and Accadian, perhaps an Amorite language.

In 1936 A. Goetze wrote in his Hethiter, Churriter, und Assyrer, (p. 142):

Man hat diese (Sprache von Ugarit) zunächst für ein älteres Phönikisch oder allgemeiner gesagt Kanaanisch gehalten. Das war voreilig. Heute können wir sagen: Das **Altsemitisch**, das hier vorliegt, ist mit keiner der bisher bekannten semitischen Sprachen identisch, sie scheint zwischen dem Westsemitischen und dem Akkadischen zu stehen. Die Annahme liegt sehr nahe, dass wir es hier mit einem Rest des Amurritischen zu tun haben.

In that connection we have to ask the question: "What is Amorite? Is there a language of the Amurru?" The word Amurru itself is a Sumerian