

## 2. Similarities in ideas.

The Canaanites and Israelites had much in common as one should suspect since they lived in the same or neighboring countries and had the same background of civilization. Both the Canaanites and Israelites were mainly agricultural peoples and in both literatures we find a considerable stress on the life and work of the farmer and herdsman. Homely expressions like "as the heart of a cow toward her calf, as the heart of a ewe toward her lamb, so is the heart of <sup>c</sup>Anat toward Baal,"<sup>10</sup> can be paralleled by many Biblical passages as, for example the comparison of plowing, sowing and harvesting with general truth in Isa. 28:25-28, or Amos' statement "Shall horses run upon the rock?" (Amos 6:12). In such a sophisticated highly poetic book as Isaiah, an exceptional number of references to agriculture are found.

Many social customs were common to both nations. Just as the customary laws of Mesopotamia agree sometimes in the most remarkable way with the laws of the Old Testament, so the customs of Ugarit were in many respects very close to those of Israel. We show in a special chapter (pp. 59 ff.) the concern of the Canaanites for the widows, orphans, and the poor and the prisoners. In those matters there were similar customs prevailing among the Israelites and Canaanites. We can assume that similarity of custom extended also to the handling of other problems especially those of the daily life of the farmer.

Certain customs regarding the dowry given by the bridegroom, were common to Israelites and Canaanites (cf. pp. 186-189), also certain aspects of burial customs and celebration of feasts (cf. pp. 83 ff.; Isa. 25:6 ff.). Other similarities are also found in certain manners of mourning (cf. pp. 189 ff.), while abuses like self-mutilation as sign of mourning were forbidden in Israel.