

The Canaanite influence regarding picturesque conceptions and poetic structure is evident. But this is not true of the ideology and especially the theology of the Hebrew prophets. There is no connection between the theology of the pantheon of Ugarit and the God of Isaiah. In many cases we find pictures of Baal (e.g. "The Rider on the Cloud") or passages referring to Canaanite gods, applied to YHWH. But it is in such instances that we see the lofty and spiritualized use of the pagan poem and realize the tremendous spiritual and ethical difference between Ugaritic literature and Isaiah. Outwardly the two works are often very similar, almost identical in a few passages, but ideologically and especially theologically they are separated by an abyss. A comparison of Ugaritic literature with Isaiah reveals Biblical poetry at its best, and it makes clear the high standard of the monotheistic Hebrew prophets.