

inscriptions on stone with only two or three words in each telling very little of what these wandering Arabs thought. We have a very extensive Arabic literature, but this literature comes from the period after 600 A.D. about two thousand years after the time of the beginning of the religion of the Israelites. How much can we tell from what the Arabs thought about 600 A.D. as to what their ancestors thought, two thousand years earlier when the Israelites came in contact with them? In fact, the problem is still more complicated than this. Mohammed taught that there was only one God. He sent his followers out with fire and the sword to destroy all who would not accept the belief in the one God. The fanatical Mohammedans carried their pillaging arms all over Arabia, and the entire Arab-speaking world. The Arabic heathenism was utterly destroyed. About a century later historians arose among the Mohammedans who were interested about writing the account of the glorious exploits of their grand-parents as they made the great Mohammedan conquests. In describing these conquests these historians told of the destruction of the temples and of the ending of the practices of the heathen Arabs whom Mohammed conquered. They were not particularly interested in describing the religion of these people. Their purpose was to glorify the Mohammedans who had conquered them, so their references to them are only incidental and even they give only what these Mohammedans learned by talking to a few of the old men who perhaps still survived from these campaigns.

Sixty years ago Julius Wellhausen, the learned German scholar, made a careful study of these Mohammedan historical accounts in order to gather a bit of information here and there as to the heathen religion of Arabia which had been destroyed a century before their time. In order to