

Question.

Are there documentary proofs of laws and ideas on a par with Hebrew ideas, and contemporary with or prior to them.?

Attention is called to the little volume ~~Bible and Babel~~ ~~in which~~ Babel and Bible/ in which Prof. Delitzsch tells of the monuments etc. which have come to light as a result of excavations in Babylonia and Assyria. This book at the time called forth a good deal of discussion, yet all that the book did was to tell openly and in plain language the fact of the dependence upon Babylonian sources for many of the Old Testament legends, like the Creation, Fall of Man, and the Flood. The institution of the Sabbath also comes from Babylonia.

The code of Hammarabi, which was discovered in Dec 1901 and Jan 1902 at the acropolis of Susa of these three enormous fragments, with history and law written on them. There is a bas-relief, representing Hammarabi receiving these tablets from the sun god Shamash.

Hammurabi's accession is dated at B.C.2342. It is impossible to go into detail on the nature of these laws, except to point out the conclusion of Professor Johnson of John Hopkins University, "The Babylonian and Mosaic codes are conceived in the same literary form; they contain a considerable number of practically identical laws; they present not a few cases of actual verbal agreement, and both are designed for the regulation of a civilized community. The parallels are too close to be explained upon the somewhat vague theory of common tradition. It has been shown that, in Palestine/ Israel learned and appropriated the ancient Babylonian myths. Why should they not learn Babylonian law as well.

Question:

The foundation of the Babylonian law was the code of Hammurabi, and thus the enactments of the old Babylonian king, formulated about 2250 B.C. passed more than a thousand years later into the Book of the Covenant, and so became the heritage of Israel and the world."