

The Religion of Moses

What was the religion of Moses prior to the events of the burning bush?

What we know about Moses, or any of the patriarchs, is that which comes to us through the writings of what is often referred to as, the Old Testament. Mankind can write books about their suppositions, their think so's, or even their whims, but what do the living really know about the man Moses before the five books of Moses emanated from the pen? What did Moses believe, what did Moses come to believe, and from whom did Moses receive his knowledge? Anything the living can really know about the man Moses is tied to the history that Moses himself revealed.

What law existed before Moses delivered the Law to Israel? There is evidence that one codified system existed before the days of Moses, i.e., the laws of Hammurabi. "Hammurabi reigned over Babylonia and associated with *Khammurabi* (emph. mine), or Ammurapi, the Amraphel of Genesis, 43 (or 55) years (B.C. 2376-2333)" Sayce, Early Israel, (pg. 281). a contemporary of Abraham. Twice in the life of Abraham an expression of law was revealed: 1) When Abram went to Egypt, "the princes of Pharaoh saw her, and praised her to Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house." After Jehovah plagued Pharaoh's house, "Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?" (Gen. 12:14-15). 2) When Abraham came into the country of the king of Gerar, "Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister. And Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, because of the woman whom thou hast taken. For she is a man's wife. Now Abimelech had not come near her. And he said, Lord, wilt thou slay even a righteous nation? Said he not himself unto me, She is my sister? And she, even she herself said, He is my brother. In the integrity of my heart and the innocency of my hands have I done this. And God said unto him in the dream, Yea, I know that in the integrity of thy heart thou has done this, and I also withheld thee from sinning against me. Therefore suffered I thee not to touch her" (Gen. 20:2-6). In both of these cases there was a standard of right moral conduct. In addition, Jehovah had given specific instructions concerning Abraham, saying, "For I have known him, to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of Jehovah, to do righteousness and justice; to the end that Jehovah may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (Gen. 18:19).

After a period of many years, Moses was born: “According to Rabbinical Judaism “calculated a lifespan of Moses corresponding to 1391–1271 BCE.” General laws of right moral conduct continued throughout the world, i.e., (“for when Gentiles that have not the law do by nature the things of the law, these, not having the law, are the law unto themselves; in that they show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness therewith, and their thoughts one with another accusing or else excusing them)” (Rom. 2:14-15). It is a recorded fact that Moses was in the home of his mother and he knew the Hebrews were his brethren (Exod. 2:9-10,11).

After leaving Egypt Moses came to Midian, to the house of Jethro, the priest of Midian. Midian was a son of Abraham and Keturah. As Moses was tending to the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, Jehovah spoke to Moses out of the midst of the burning bush, and said, “I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” What would you say was “The Religion of Moses”? ret