

The Myth Of Exodus And Genesis And The Exclusion Of Their African Origins

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Religious Identity and the Invention of Tradition - A.W.J. Houtepen 2021-11-15

STAR - Studies in Theology and Religion, 3 This book contains the contributions to the first international conference organised by the Netherlands School for Advanced Studies in Theology and Religion (NOSTER), held in the Netherlands in January 1999. The conference theme was inspired by Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger's influential volume, *The Invention of Tradition*. Their work provided a starting point for discussing formations and changes of religious traditions on the one hand, and the interaction of religious identities and the transformation of traditions on the other. After an introductory section discussing Hobsbawm's definitions and his theoretical framework, and offering several critical applications of his framework to Christian traditions, the main part of this volume consists of three thematic sections: the theme of the Exodus, the earliest traditions about the Lord's supper, and the modern "myth of Fundamentalism". This volume will be of interest to all those engaged in the study of religious traditions and identities, and the way in which these interact. From the Contents *The Invention of Religious Traditions Counterfactuals and the Invention of Religious Traditions* - Marcel Sarot *The Creation of Tradition: Rereading and Reading beyond Hobsbawm* - Paul Post *Early Christianity between Divine Promise and Earthly Politics* - Willemien Otten *Challenging the Tradition of the Bodiless God: A Way to Inclusive Monotheism?* - Kune E. Biezeveld *Invention of Tradition? Trinity as Test* - Herwi Rikhof *Inventing and Re-inventing the Exodus* *The Exodus as Charter Myth* - Karel van der Toorn *Exodus: Liberation History against Charter Myth* - Rainer Albertz *The Development of the Exodus Tradition* - John Collins *History-oriented Foundation Myths in Israel and its Environment* - Hans-Peter Müller *The Exodus Motif in the Theologies of Liberation: Changes of Perspective* - Georges De Schrijver *Exodus in the African-American Experience* - Theo Witvliet *The Invention of the Eucharist and its Aftermath* *The Early History of the Lord's Supper* - Henk Jan de Jonge *The Early History of the Lord's Supper: Response to Henk Jan de Jonge* - Dietrich-Alex Koch *The Lord's Supper and the Holy Communion in the Middle Ages: Sources, Significance, Remains and Confusion* - Charles Caspers *Meal and Sacrament: How Do We Encounter the Lord at the Table* - Gerrit Immink *Religious Fundamentalism: Facts and Fiction* *The Borderline between Muslim Fundamentalism and Muslim Modernism: An Indonesian Example* - Herman Beck *The Roaring Lion Strikes Again: Modernity vs. Dutch Orthodox Protestantism* - Hijme Stoffels *Fundamentalism: The Possibilities and Limitations of a Social-Psychological Approach* - Jacques Janssen, Jan van der Lans and Mark Dechesne

[Evidence for God](#) - William A. Dembski 2010-07-01

There have always been challenges to belief in God as he is revealed in the Bible and each new year seems to add more questions to the doubter's arsenal. In *Evidence for God*, leading apologists provide compelling arguments that address the most pressing questions of the day about God, science, Jesus, the Bible, and more, including Is Intelligent Design really a credible explanation of the origins of our world? Did Jesus really exist? Is Jesus really the only way to God? What about those who have never heard the gospel? Is the Bible today what was originally written? What about recently publicized gospels that aren't in the Bible? and much more

[The Rise of Ancient Israel](#) - Hershel Shanks 1992

This work is composed of three outstanding lectures about the emergence of the ancient Israelites and their religion presented at a

symposium held at the Smithsonian Institution in the fall of 1991. Professors William Dever, Baruch Halpern, and P. Kyle McCarter Jr., specialists in the fields of biblical archaeology and Near Eastern studies, present provocative theories on the arrival of the Israelites in ancient Canaan and the provenance of their religion. Did the Israelites enter Canaan according to the books of Joshua and Judges or were they already there as part of the indigenous population? Is there any reality to the biblical account of the Exodus? Where and when did belief in the God Yahweh originate? Edited under the aegis of Shanks, the well-known editor of *Biblical Archaeological Review* and *Bible Review*, this work can easily be understood by interested lay readers. Highly recommended for larger collections. Robert A. Silver, Shaker Heights P.L., Ohio. *Library Journal*.

[The Exodus](#) - Richard Elliott Friedman 2017-09-12

The Exodus has become a core tradition of Western civilization. Millions read it, retell it, and celebrate it. But did it happen? Biblical scholars, Egyptologists, archaeologists, historians, literary scholars, anthropologists, and filmmakers are drawn to it. Unable to find physical evidence until now, many archaeologists and scholars claim this mass migration is just a story, not history. Others oppose this conclusion, defending the biblical account. Like a detective on an intricate case no one has yet solved, pioneering Bible scholar and bestselling author of *Who Wrote the Bible?* Richard Elliott Friedman cuts through the noise — the serious studies and the wild theories — merging new findings with new insight. From a spectrum of disciplines, state-of-the-art archeological breakthroughs, and fresh discoveries within scripture, he brings real evidence of a historical basis for the exodus — the history behind the story. The biblical account of millions fleeing Egypt may be an exaggeration, but the exodus itself is not a myth. Friedman does not stop there. Known for his ability to make Bible scholarship accessible to readers, Friedman proceeds to reveal how much is at stake when we explore the historicity of the exodus. The implications, he writes, are monumental. We learn that it became the starting-point of the formation of monotheism, the defining concept of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Moreover, we learn that it precipitated the foundational ethic of loving one's neighbors — including strangers — as oneself. He concludes, the actual exodus was the cradle of global values of compassion and equal rights today.

The First Book of Moses, Called Genesis - 1999

Hailed as "the most radical repackaging of the Bible since Gutenberg", these Pocket Canons give an up-close look at each book of the Bible.

Ancient Egyptian Chronology - Erik Hornung 2006-12-30

This volume, the only up-to-date study of its kind in any language, reviews the foundations of Ancient Egyptian chronology before presenting a relative and an absolute chronology for the time span from prehistoric times until the Hellenistic Period.

[We the Black Jews](#) - Yosef Ben-Jochannan 1993

This aspect of the history and heritage of the "Black Jews" is dedicated to all oppressed African people whose religion differs from those who control the power of life and death over most of us. Out of this it is hoped that a better understanding between African people will prevail in spite of our religious differences. Remember, religion is nothing more, or less, than a belief, and that any one of them is as Godly as another. Yosef A. A. Ben-Johnannan

Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic - Frank Moore CROSS 1997

The essays in this volume address key aspects of Israelite religious

development. Frank Moore Cross traces the continuities between early Israelite religion and the Canaanite culture from which it emerged; explores the tension between the mythic and the historical in Israel's religious expression; and examines the reemergence of Canaanite mythic material in the apocalypticism of early Christianity and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The God Who Makes Himself Known - W. Ross Blackburn 2013-03-05
Countering scholarly tendencies to fragment the text over theological difficulties, this New Studies in Biblical Theology volume contends that Exodus should be read as a unified whole, and that an appreciation of its missionary theme in its canonical context is of great help in dealing with the difficulties that the book poses.

The Bible among the Myths - John N. Oswalt 2009-08-30
Sixty years ago, most biblical scholars maintained that Israel's religion was unique—that it stood in marked contrast to the faiths of its ancient Near Eastern neighbors. Nowadays, it is widely argued that Israel's religion mirrors that of other West Semitic societies. What accounts for this radical change, and what are its implications for our understanding of the Old Testament? Dr. John N. Oswalt says the root of this new attitude lies in Western society's hostility to the idea of revelation, which presupposes a reality that transcends the world of the senses, asserting the existence of a realm humans cannot control. While not advocating a "the Bible says it, and I believe it, and that settles it" point of view, Oswalt asserts convincingly that while other ancient literatures all see reality in essentially the same terms, the Bible differs radically on all the main points. The Bible Among the Myths supplies a necessary corrective to those who reject the Old Testament's testimony about a transcendent God who breaks into time and space and reveals himself in and through human activity.

Israel in Egypt - James K. Hoffmeier 1999-03-18
Scholars of the Hebrew Bible have in the last decade begun to question the historical accuracy of the Israelite sojourn in Egypt, as described in the book of Exodus. The reason for the rejection of the exodus tradition is said to be the lack of historical and archaeological evidence in Egypt. Those advancing these claims, however, are not specialists in the study of Egyptian history, culture, and archaeology. In this pioneering book, James Hoffmeier examines the most current Egyptological evidence and argues that it supports the biblical record concerning Israel in Egypt.
The Living Thoughts of the Prophet Muhammad - Maulana Muhammad Ali 2011-08-08

Brief biography of the Holy Prophet, and his teachings. Reviews: "The Learned author tells in superb style about the Holy Prophet- his mission and his achievements" — The Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore, Pakistan "so beautifully done by Muhammad Ali ... Should form part of the education of every person who aspires to know the life career of a great historical personality" — Times of Ceylon

The Book of Genesis - Ronald Hendel 2019-09-10
During its 2,500-year life, the book of Genesis has been the keystone to important claims about God and humanity in Judaism and Christianity, and it plays a central role in contemporary debates about science, politics, and human rights. The authors provide a panoramic history of this iconic book, exploring its impact on Western religion, philosophy, literature, art, and more.

Bible Review - 2002

Israel Population Growth - Stanley R. Stasko 2009-05
In the fall of 1996 the author enrolled in a graduate course at Sacred Heart Major Seminary entitled Method & Pentateuch (course #SS-521). During the course the instructor implied that the Exodus of Israel from Egypt had to be myth because the birth rate of children per woman during Israel stay in Egypt had to be so high (10, 11, 12 children per woman) and this is a unreasonable high birth rate per woman. This book will address the question "Can anyone make the claim that the Exodus of Israel from Egypt is myth based on the singular argument that the birth rate of children per woman during Israel stay in Egypt is so high (10, 11, 12 children per woman) and therefore is unreasonable." The answer begins by asking the question what birth rate of children per woman during Israel stay in Egypt is required to obtain Israel population growth described in Genesis to Exodus. The author examines this question utilizing two methods: a machine design analysis of Israel population growth from Genesis to Exodus and a statistical numerical analysis of Israel population growth from Genesis to Exodus. The machine design analysis requires a birth rate of 3.366 to 4.252 children per woman to obtain Israel population growth from Genesis to Exodus. The statistical numerical analysis requires a birth rate of 3.540 to 4.167 children per

woman of to obtain Israel population growth from Genesis to Exodus. The claim that the Exodus of Israel from Egypt is myth based on the singular argument that the birth rate required of children per woman during Israel stay in Egypt is so high (10, 11, 12 children per woman) is mathematically invalid.

Adam to Ahab - Frederick Stitt 2005-04-12
This book examines the origins of the Old Testament, one of the foundation stones of Western Civilization. Adam to Ahab begins with a fictitious but plausible tale about how the early books of the Bible were written, providing a means for the reader to enter that ancient world in which the stories from Adam to Ahab were recorded. Then, synthesizing the works of nearly 50 outstanding scholars in the fields of biblical studies and archeology, Fred Stitt presents the scholarly consensus on the history and myth regarding the events that occurred prior to 587-586 BCE, before the destruction of the First Temple. "...shows a remarkable grasp of the current consensus of biblical scholarship, and expresses it in a concise way."- J. Collins, Professor of Old Testament, Yale University "The result is succinct and no-nonsense, yet delivered with a calm clarity and at times an utter delight..."-Richard A. Rosengarten, Dean, The University of Chicago Divinity School "I read your chapter on Jonah and Nahum and was tremendously impressed...so well presented, clear, straight-forward and very solid...a fine contribution."-Rabbi Herbert Bronstein, Senior Scholar, North Shore Congregation Isr'l in Glencoe, Illinois

The Biography of Ancient Israel - Ilana Pardes 2002-09
"Pardes has a remarkable gift for asking new questions about familiar texts and providing fresh insights into old problems. By looking closely at the key metaphors and the narrative details of the biblical story of the formation of the Israelite nation, she has teased out of the text a compelling biography."—Robert Alter, Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley "Ilana Pardes elegantly recasts the mythic story of Israel's emergence as the story of the birth, individuation, initiation, and maturity of an emergent subject. Ambivalences, deferrals, power struggles, and multiple memories all characterize Israel's development and the stories told about it. Through a set of close and graceful readings, Pardes persuasively argues that the first five books of the Bible constitute, not the history, but the biography of a nation." —Elizabeth A. Castelli, Barnard College, author of *Imitating Paul: A Discourse of Power* "The book of books has generated many other works, but Ilana Pardes's *The Biography of Ancient Israel* is in a class by itself. In beautiful, spare prose, she reconstructs the way the biblical authors imagined the history of ancient Israel. Artfully weaving literary and psychological insights, she has given us an entirely fresh view of the Bible as original as it is brilliant. This is a book for every reader of the Bible who wishes 'to wrest tradition away from a conformism that is about to overpower it.'"—David Biale, author of *Eros and the Jews* "This is a wonderful book and a delight to read. The idea of treating the exodus story as a collective biography is quite original, and makes possible a genuinely illuminating reading of the story."—Michael Walzer, author of *Exodus and Revolution*

[Understanding the African Philosophical Concept Behind the "Diagram of the Law of Opposites"](#) - Yosef ben- Jochannan 2005

African Origins of the Major "Western Religions" - Yosef Ben-Jochannan 1991

Dr. Ben critically examines the history, beliefs, and myths that are the foundation of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Is Genesis History Bible Study Book - Thomas Purifoy 2017-12
Dr. Del Tackett treks the globe to meet with top scientists and scholars and asks the questions surrounding the most controversial book of the Bible that everyone is curious about: Was everything created in six days? Did we evolve from apes? Were Adam and Eve real? Was there a global flood? What happened to the dinosaurs? Was there a tower of Babel? This first-of-its-kind documentary also features a special panel discussion on the importance of Genesis to our faith today.

Berosus and Genesis, Manetho and Exodus - Russell Gmirkin 2006-05-15

Berosus and Genesis, Manetho and Exodus argues that the Pentateuch was written in 273-272 BCE under the patronage of Ptolemy II Philadelphus by the Septuagint scholars drawing on Hellenistic historical sources from the Great Library of Alexandria. >

Greek Myth and the Bible - Bruce Loudon 2018-11-06
Since the nineteenth-century rediscovery of the Gilgamesh epic, we have known that the Bible imports narratives from outside of Israelite culture, refiguring them for its own audience. Only more recently, however, has

come the realization that Greek culture is also a prominent source of biblical narratives. Greek Myth and the Bible argues that classical mythological literature and the biblical texts were composed in a dialogic relationship. Louden examines a variety of Greek myths from a range of sources, analyzing parallels between biblical episodes and Hesiod, Euripides, Argonautic myth, selections from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, and Homeric epic. This fascinating volume offers a starting point for debate and discussion of these cultural and literary exchanges and adaptations in the wider Mediterranean world and will be an invaluable resource to students of the Hebrew Bible and the influence of Greek myth.

God's Favorites - Michael Coogan 2019-04-02

A noted biblical scholar explores how the claim of divine choice has been used from ancient times to the present to justify territorial expansion and prejudice. The Bible describes many individuals and groups as specially chosen by God. But does God choose at all? Michael Coogan explains the temporally layered and allusive storytelling of biblical texts and describes the world of the ancient Near East from which it emerged, laying bare the power struggles, the acts of vengeance, and persecutions made sacred by claims of chosenness. Jumping forward to more modern contexts, Coogan reminds us how the self-designation of the Puritan colonizers of New England as God's new Israel eventually morphed, in the United States, into the self-justifying doctrines of manifest destiny and American exceptionalism. In contemporary Israel, both fundamentalist Zionists and their evangelical American partners cite the Jews' status as God's chosen people as justification for taking land—for very different ends. Appropriated uncritically, the Bible has thus been used to reinforce exclusivity and superiority, with new myths based on old myths. Finally, in place of the pernicious idea of chosenness, Coogan suggests we might instead focus on another key biblical concept: taking care of the immigrant and the refugee, reminding the reader of the unusual focus on the vulnerable in both the Hebrew Bible and New Testament.

Exodus - 2015-04-20

An archaeological and historical investigation into the Biblical legends of the Israelite sojourn in Egypt, the Exodus from Egypt, and the conquest of the Promised Land.

The Invention of Religion - Jan Assmann 2020-03-24

A groundbreaking account of how the Book of Exodus shaped fundamental aspects of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam The Book of Exodus may be the most consequential story ever told. But its spectacular moments of heaven-sent plagues and parting seas overshadow its true significance, says Jan Assmann, a leading historian of ancient religion. The story of Moses guiding the enslaved children of Israel out of captivity to become God's chosen people is the foundation of an entirely new idea of religion, one that lives on today in many of the world's faiths. First introduced in Exodus, new ideas of faith, revelation, and above all covenant transformed basic assumptions about humankind's relationship to the divine and became the bedrock of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Did Moses Exist? - D. M. Murdock 2014

The biblical figure of Moses has been the center of fascination for over 2,000 years, but what do we actually know about him? Was he a real person? Did the Exodus truly happen? Or is the story in the Pentateuch a mythical account written centuries after the alleged events? Why does Moses's story resemble that of other, older lawgivers and legendary predecessors? Why are there so many elements of sun and wine god myths in the tale of Moses? What does the focus on the serpent in his story signify? Who were Yahweh and the Elohim? Did Moses Exist? includes: Maps and 126 illustrations Extensive bibliography, table of contents and index Hundreds of footnotes and citations from primary sources in multiple languages Best modern scholarship from credentialed authorities Did Moses Exist? provides a massive amount of information from antiquity about the world's religious traditions and mythology, including how solar myths, wine cultivation and fertility cults have shaped the Bible and Judaism. This book may be the most comprehensive study to date, using the best scholarship and state-of-the-art research methods. "The existence of Moses as well as the veracity of the Exodus story is disputed amongst archaeologists and Egyptologists, with experts in the field of biblical criticism citing logical inconsistencies, new archaeological evidence, historical evidence and related origin myths in Canaanite culture." --"Moses," Wikipedia "There is no historical evidence outside of the Bible, no mention of Moses outside the Bible, and no independent confirmation that Moses ever existed." --Dr. Michael D. Coogan, lecturer on the Old Testament at Harvard Divinity School "We cannot be sure that Moses ever lived because there are no traces of his

earthly existence outside of tradition." --Egyptologist Dr. Jan Assmann, Moses the Egyptian "The life of Moses contains elements--canonical and apocryphal--that mark him as a true mythic hero, and certainly he is Judaism's greatest hero and the central figure in Hebrew mythology." --Dr. David Leeming, *The Oxford Companion to World Mythology* "...the stories of the creation, of the flood, of Abraham, of Jacob, of the descent into and the exodus from Egypt, of the career of Moses and the Jews in the desert, of Joshua and his soldiers, of the judges and their clients, are all apocryphal, and were fabricated at a late period of Jewish history." --Dr. Thomas Inman, *Ancient Faiths and Modern Table of Contents List of Illustrations Preface Introduction Who Wrote the Pentateuch? Was Moses an Egyptian Pharaoh or Priest? The Exodus as History? The Exodus in Ancient Literature Hyksos and Lepers Who Were the Israelites? The Exodus as Myth The Lawgiver Archetype The Dionysus Connection The Life of Dionysus The Vine and Wine The Great God Sun Yahweh and the Sun Moses as Solar Hero Conclusion Bibliography Index*

Five Cities of Refuge - Lawrence Kushner 2009-09-09

In the ancient Jewish practice of the *kavannah* (a meditation designed to focus one's heart on its spiritual goal), Lawrence Kushner and David Mamet offer their own reactions to key verses from each week's Torah portion, opening the biblical text to new layers of understanding. Here is a fascinating glimpse into two great minds, as each author approaches the text from his unique perspective, each seeking an understanding of the Bible's personalities and commandments, paradoxes and ambiguities. Kushner offers his words of Torah with a conversational enthusiasm that ranges from family dynamics to the Kabbalah; Mamet challenges the reader, often beginning his comment far afield—with Freud or the American judiciary—before returning to a text now wholly reinterpreted. In the tradition of Israel as a people who wrestle with God, Kushner and Mamet grapple with the biblical text, succumbing neither to apologetics nor parochialism, asking questions without fear of the answers they may find. Over the course of a year of weekly readings, they comment on all aspects of the Bible: its richness of theme and language, its contradictions, its commandments, and its often unfathomable demands. If you are already familiar with the Bible, this book will draw you back to the text for a deeper look. If you have not yet explored the Bible in depth, Kushner and Mamet are guides of unparalleled wisdom and discernment. *Five Cities of Refuge* is easily accessible yet powerfully illuminating. Each week's comments can be read in a few minutes, but they will give you something to think about all week long. Lawrence Kushner teaches and writes as the Emanu-El Scholar at The Congregation Emanu-El of San Francisco. He has taught at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City and served for twenty-eight years as rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Sudbury, Massachusetts. A frequent lecturer, he is also the author of more than a dozen books on Jewish spirituality and mysticism. He lives in San Francisco. David Mamet is a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright. He is the author of *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Cryptogram*, and *Boston Marriage*, among other plays. He has also published three novels and many screenplays, children's books, and essay collections.

Jesus Before the Gospels - Bart D. Ehrman 2016-03-01

The bestselling author of *Misquoting Jesus*, one of the most renowned and controversial Bible scholars in the world today examines oral tradition and its role in shaping the stories about Jesus we encounter in the New Testament—and ultimately in our understanding of Christianity. Throughout much of human history, our most important stories were passed down orally—including the stories about Jesus before they became written down in the Gospels. In this fascinating and deeply researched work, leading Bible scholar Bart D. Ehrman investigates the role oral history has played in the New Testament—how the telling of these stories not only spread Jesus' message but helped shape it. A master explainer of Christian history, texts, and traditions, Ehrman draws on a range of disciplines, including psychology and anthropology, to examine the role of memory in the creation of the Gospels. Explaining how oral tradition evolves based on the latest scientific research, he demonstrates how the act of telling and retelling impacts the story, the storyteller, and the listener—crucial insights that challenge our typical historical understanding of the silent period between when Jesus lived and died and when his stories began to be written down. As he did in his previous books on religious scholarship, debates on New Testament authorship, and the existence of Jesus of Nazareth, Ehrman combines his deep knowledge and meticulous scholarship in a compelling and eye-opening narrative that will change the way we read and think about these sacred texts.

[The Bible Myth](#) - Gary Greenberg 2003

First published in 1998, *The Bible Myth* was acclaimed for its scholarship and insight. Examining the troubling questions of why ancient Israel has no archaeological or documentary presence prior to and just after the Exodus from Egypt, Greenberg asks who were the earliest Israelites, where did they come from and under what circumstances did they come to power in Canaan? Challenging conventional wisdom in this field, he posits a radical new model for the study of biblical Israel. Provocative, polemical and erudite, this is essential reading.

A Test of Time - David Rohl 2001

By employing the same basic methodologies used to establish the currently accepted chronology, it has been possible for a group of young archaeologists, including David Rohl, to create a New Chronology which resolves many of the problems permeating ancient world studies. In particular, one model has been developed which has major implications for Old Testament research. Through the revision of the master chronology of ancient Egypt they have unlocked the key to biblical history - the epic events of the Bible really did happen as recorded in the Books of Genesis, Exodus, Judges, Samuel, Kings and Chronicles - the problem was that we had previously been looking for them in completely the wrong place in time. Many of the conundrums of the past are explained, and legendary figures such as Joseph, Moses, David and Solomon find their true political setting. Exodus and Conquest will be restored to history and the magic of legend will begin to make its great comeback

Oxford Bibliographies - Ilan Stavans

"An emerging field of study that explores the Hispanic minority in the United States, Latino Studies is enriched by an interdisciplinary perspective. Historians, sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, demographers, linguists, as well as religion, ethnicity, and culture scholars, among others, bring a varied, multifaceted approach to the understanding of a people whose roots are all over the Americas and whose permanent home is north of the Rio Grande. Oxford Bibliographies in Latino Studies offers an authoritative, trustworthy, and up-to-date intellectual map to this ever-changing discipline."--Editorial page.

Genesis as Myth - Edmund Ronald Leach 1969

Who Wrote the Bible? - Richard Friedman 2019-01-15

A much anticipated reissue of *Who Wrote the Bible?*—the contemporary classic the New York Times Book Review called “a thought-provoking [and] perceptive guide” that identifies the individual writers of the Pentateuch and explains what they can teach us about the origins of the Bible. For thousands of years, the prophet Moses was regarded as the sole author of the first five books of the Bible, known as the Pentateuch. According to tradition, Moses was divinely directed to write down foundational events in the history of the world: the creation of humans, the worldwide flood, the laws as they were handed down at Mt. Sinai, and the cycle of Israel’s enslavement and liberation from Egypt. However, these stories—and their frequent discrepancies—provoke questions: why does the first chapter in Genesis say that man and woman were made in God’s image, while the second says that woman was made from man’s rib? Why does one account of the flood say it lasted forty days, while another records no less than one hundred? And why do some stories reflect the history of southern Judah, while others seem sourced from northern Israel? Originally published in 1987, Richard Friedman’s *Who Wrote the Bible?* joins a host of modern scholars who show that the Pentateuch was written by at least four distinct voices—separated by borders, political alliances, and particular moments in history—then connected by brilliant editors. Rather than cast doubt onto the legitimacy of the Bible, Friedman uses these divergent accounts to illuminate a text that was written by real people. Friedman’s seminal and bestselling text is a comprehensive and authoritative answer to the question: just who exactly wrote the Bible?

The Black Man's Religion: The myth of Genesis and Exodus, and the exclusion of their African origins - Yosef Ben-Jochannan 2002

The second book in a 3 volume set, this is a companion volume to *African Origins of the Major Western Religions* and *The Need for a Black Bible*. An invaluable resource for anyone seeking to gain a better understanding of belief systems in the Western world.

Genesis and the Moses Story - Konrad Schmid 2010-06-23

Konrad Schmid is a Swiss biblical scholar who belongs to a larger group of Continental researchers proposing new directions in the study of the Pentateuch. In this volume, a translation of his *Erzväter und Exodus*, Schmid argues that the ancestor tradition in Genesis and the Moses story in Exodus were two competing traditions of Israel’s origins and were not combined until the time of the Priestly Code—that is, the early Persian

period. Schmid interacts with the long tradition of European scholarship on the Hebrew Bible but departs from some of the main tenets of the Documentary Hypothesis: he argues that the pre-Priestly material in both text blocks is literarily and theologically so divergent that their present linkage is more appropriately interpreted as the result of a secondary redaction than as thematic variation stemming from J’s oral prehistory. He dates Genesis–2 Kings to the Persian period and considers it a redactional work that, in its present shape, is a historical introduction to the message of future hope presented in the prophetic corpus of Isaiah–Malachi. Scholars and students alike will be pleased that this translation makes Schmid’s important work readily available in English, both for the contributions made by Schmid and the summary of continental interpretation that he presents. In this edition, some passages have been expanded or modified in order to clarify issues or to engage with more-recent scholarship. The notes and bibliography have also been updated. Dr. Schmid is Professor of Old Testament and Early Judaism at the University of Zürich.

Martin Buber on Myth (RLE Myth) - S. Daniel Breslauer 2015-03-05

This book, first published in 1990, summarizes and evaluates the contribution of Martin Buber as a theorist of myth. Buber provides explicit guidelines for understanding and evaluating myths. He describes reality as twofold: people live either in a world of things, to which they relate as a subject controlling its objects, or in a world of self-conscious others, with whom one relates as fellow subjects. Human beings require both types of reality, but also a means of moving from one to the other. Buber understands myths as one such means by which people pass from I-It reality to I-You meeting. In studying myths, he focuses on the myths in the traditions he knows best, but offers his advice and interpretation of mythology and scholarship about mythology generally.

The Mythic Past: Biblical Archaeology And The Myth Of Israel -

Thomas L. Thompson 2008-08-05

The Jewish people's historical claims to a small area of land bordering the eastern Mediterranean are not only the foundation for the modern state of Israel, they are also at the very heart of Judeo-Christian belief. Yet in *The Mythic Past*, Thomas Thompson argues that such claims are grounded in literary myth, not history. Among the author's startling conclusions are these: * There never was a "united monarch" of Israel in biblical times * We can no longer talk about a time of the Patriarchs * The entire notion of "Israel" and its history is a literary fiction. *The Mythic Past* provides refreshing new ways to read the Old Testament as the great literature it was meant to be. At the same time, its controversial conclusions about Jewish history are sure to prove incendiary in a worldwide debate about one of the world's seminal texts, and one of its most bitterly contested regions.

Finding Purpose in a Godless World - Ralph Lewis, MD 2018-07-17

A psychiatrist presents a compelling argument for how human purpose and caring emerged in a spontaneous and unguided universe. Can there be purpose without God? This book is about how human purpose and caring, like consciousness and absolutely everything else in existence, could plausibly have emerged and evolved unguided, bottom-up, in a spontaneous universe. A random world—which according to all the scientific evidence and despite our intuitions is the actual world we live in—is too often misconstrued as nihilistic, demotivating, or devoid of morality and meaning. Drawing on years of wide-ranging, intensive clinical experience as a psychiatrist, and his own family experience with cancer, Dr. Lewis helps readers understand how people cope with random adversity without relying on supernatural belief. In fact, as he explains, although coming to terms with randomness is often frightening, it can be liberating and empowering too. Written for those who desire a scientifically sound yet humanistic view of the world, Lewis's book examines science's inroads into the big questions that occupy religion and philosophy. He shows how our sense of purpose and meaning is entangled with mistaken intuitions that events in our lives happen for some intended cosmic reason and that the universe itself has inherent purpose. Dispelling this illusion, and integrating the findings of numerous scientific fields, he shows how not only the universe, life, and consciousness but also purpose, morality, and meaning could, in fact, have emerged and evolved spontaneously and unguided. There is persuasive evidence that these qualities evolved naturally and without mystery, biologically and culturally, in humans as conscious, goal-directed social animals. While acknowledging the social and psychological value of progressive forms of religion, the author respectfully critiques even the most sophisticated theistic arguments for a purposeful universe. Instead, he offers an evidence-based, realistic yet optimistic and empathetic perspective. This book will help people to see

the scientific worldview of an unguided, spontaneous universe as awe-inspiring and foundational to building a more compassionate society.

The Bible in History - David W. Kling 2006

No one can doubt that the Bible has exerted a tremendous influence on Western civilization since the dawn of Christianity. In this book, Kling traces the story of how specific biblical texts have emerged to be the inspiration of movements and collective responses that have changed the course of history.

National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States - Catholic Church. National Conference of

Catholic Bishops. Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate 2005
The national directory addresses the dimensions and perspectives in the formation of deacons and the model standards for the formation, ministry, and life of deacons in the United States. It is intended as a guideline for formation, ministry, and life of permanent deacons and a directive to be utilized when preparing or updating a diaconate program in formulating policies for the ministry and life of deacons. This volume also includes Basic Standards for Readiness for the formation of permanent deacons in the United States, from the bishops' Committee on the Diaconate, and the committee document Visit of Consultation Teams to Diocesan Permanent Diaconate Formation Programs.