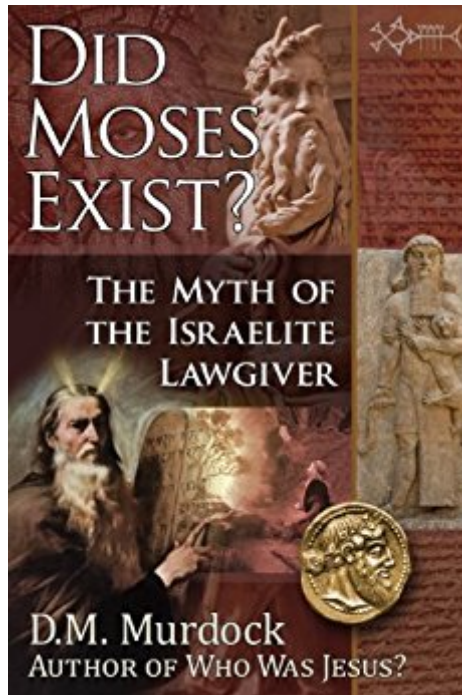


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Did Moses Exist?: The Myth Of The Israelite Lawgiver



Synopsis

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

Book Information

File Size: 19148 KB

Print Length: 582 pages

Publisher: Stellar House Publishing (May 21, 2014)

Publication Date: May 21, 2014

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00KI39S8Y

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #168,099 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #46

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Religion > Judaism #48 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > Old Testament #73 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings > Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)

Customer Reviews

It is a shame in one sense, in a time of scientific understanding and great leaps of knowledge, that a mind like D. M. Murdock's must be spent trying to explain to adults that magical stories of parting waters and talking burning bushes, and God instructing Man on just what cities He wants slaughtered and how He wants sacrifices made to Him are Myth and NOT actual history, but there it is. Thank Goodness that she does take that role seriously! She has built a huge volume of works that go step by step through the evidence against the claimed histories that form the basis of, (and the excuse for), Judaism, Christianity, Islam and all the many off-shoots, sects and scholarly works that have tried to make impossible stories into historical fact." Did Moses Exist? The Myth of the Israelite Lawgiver" can properly be considered a 'prequel' to her previous work "The Christ Conspiracy: the Greatest Story Ever Sold". She takes the reader step by step, and thought by thought, through the claims made in the Pentateuch and by its believers, and holds these claims up against the actual known history of that time, and against the myths and legends and scholarly writings that preceded these supposed events. D. M. Murdock is very well trained in comparative religions, in archaeology, and in linguistics. She is able to draw upon, and build upon the works and

understandings of scholars and historians both ancient and modern. Each step of the logic that she presents in this book, as in all of her other works, is meticulously annotated. She never offers a claim without citing her sources. Ms.

1. DM Murdock's study of the Biblical stories of Moses and their sources is a compelling and detailed analysis of the available textual and archaeological evidence. She explains in great depth and breadth the facts surrounding this major religious character, rigorously and systematically drawing on sound scholarship to demonstrate a new, provocative and coherent interpretation that refutes conventional assumptions. In highlighting the best and most scientific research, Murdock brings forth lost information with the high goal of enabling greater understanding and social harmony. 2. The findings of this important research should be the subject of much wider conversation about how and why the Bible was written and how it is perceived and used today. The low level of public interest in this material is disturbing, showing the strong pathologies that still surround religion, with widespread prejudices inhibiting scientific analysis of history. Murdock has maintained a fierce integrity in her analysis by working as an independent scholar. *Did Moses Exist?* presents a jarring conflict with established patterns of thought, and does so with systematic rigor and depth of scholarship. This book deserves to be read as a major contribution to assessment of the supernatural myths of the Judeo-Christian tradition against a modern natural scientific perspective. 3. The Pentateuch or Torah, the first five books of the Bible, is conventionally but falsely attributed to Moses. The real authors had agendas far removed from the modern goal of providing accurate historical accounts. Murdock explores how the Bible authors adapted older myths, and how the Bible gives readers a false picture about how and why it was written.

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