

Plato and the Creation of the Hebrew Bible (Copenhagen International Seminar)

Russell E. Gmirkin

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*

Copyrighted Material



PLATO AND THE CREATION OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

RUSSELL E. GMIRKIN



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2795336 in Books Routledge 2016-08-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.30 x .90 x 6.30l, .0 #File Name: 1138684988346 pages Routledge | File size: 35.Mb

Russell E. Gmirkin : Plato and the Creation of the Hebrew Bible (Copenhagen International Seminar) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Plato and the Creation of the Hebrew Bible (Copenhagen International Seminar):

8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Jerusalem and Athens, Moses and Muses. By wireloop For those of us who suspect that the Torah wasn't formed in the vacuum of Moses' mind, and sense it's 'Platonism' through-n-

through, I found this to be a novel, yet well reasoned-contextual approach to the origins of the Bible. Not necessarily a riveting read, but informative and generously footnoted nonetheless. For me he could have shed more ink explaining how his argument jibes with the Documentary Hypothesis, or have given a nod to the parallels between Platonic allegories and Israel's foundation 'stories', but shoot....those would be books unto themselves. Now onto demonstrating that the Gospels were written in like manner, eh? 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. An amazing and thought-provoking book! By Daniel Samson Rarely does a book come along that can change the landscape in historical thinking and has implications that are myriad and iconoclastic. Russell Gmirkin's new work, *Plato and the Creation of the Hebrew Bible*, is just such a book. Mr. Gmirkin, through meticulous research, has outlined a new puzzle board in which many of the pieces of historical difficulty and inconsistency that have troubled scholars for centuries finally appear to fall into place. This is a tour-de-force of innovative thinking as Mr. Gmirkin examines the ancient texts much as a detective would, carefully sifting-through the evidence and coming to a startling conclusion. The Bible, as we know it today, was written in Alexandria Egypt around 270 B.C.E using Greek sources from the famous Great Library of Alexandria! Why would the Greeks, who give a great deal of detail on surrounding nations such as Egypt, Persia, Mesopotamia, and Syria, fall almost completely silent on what they call Palestine, except for one obscure reference by Herodotus who only speaks of the region, but who does not mention the words Jew, Israel, or the Torah? I had long wondered why Plato's *Timaeus* appeared to read like a philosophical Greek outline and intellectual framework for the Book of Genesis. And then there is the question of the palpably strange silence in the writings of Herodotus, Plato and Aristotle regarding the Jewish Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, and even the nation of Israel itself, from the 6th century until the middle of the 4th century B.C.E. This book solves this long unsettled and paradoxical issue in Greek history by firmly establishing the timetable of the composition of the Torah, and the implications are myriad and earth-shattering. Mr. Gmirkin has written a remarkable book that is nothing less than a rewrite of the last 2,400 years of human history. He carefully discusses the legalistic code in the book of Exodus and gives us the startling parallels that demonstrate that they were drawn from Plato's Laws which were written in the middle of the 4th century B.C.E. This book should not only be read carefully, but it should be digested slowly while doing other background reading in Greek and Roman history. It is a remarkable synthesis that profoundly altered my perspective of this critical period in human history. This is a mark of genius when a scholar is capable of providing a simple idea that is only seen as such in hindsight, an idea that crystallizes many obscure historical puzzle pieces into a clear and concise picture that cannot be seen any other way. Kudos to Mr. Gmirkin, for an historical bombshell which will be discussed and debated by scholars and laymen for many years to come. Daniel J Samson Author of *God and Evolution The Implications of Darwins Theory for Fundamentalism, the Bible, and the Meaning of Life*.

Plato and the Creation of the Hebrew Bible for the first time compares the ancient law collections of the Ancient Near East, the Greeks and the Pentateuch to determine the legal antecedents for the biblical laws. Following on from his 2006 work, *Berosus and Genesis, Manetho and Exodus*, Gmirkin takes up his theory that the Pentateuch was written around 270 BCE using Greek sources found at the Great Library of Alexandria, and applies this to an examination of the biblical law codes. A striking number of legal parallels are found between the Pentateuch and Athenian laws, and specifically with those found in Plato's *Laws* of ca. 350 BCE. Constitutional features in biblical law, Athenian law, and Plato's *Laws* also contain close correspondences. Several genres of biblical law, including the Decalogue, are shown to have striking parallels with Greek legal collections, and the synthesis of narrative and legal content is shown to be compatible with Greek literature. All this evidence points to direct influence from Greek writings, especially Plato's *Laws*, on the biblical legal tradition. Finally, it is argued that the creation of the Hebrew Bible took place according to the program found in Plato's *Laws* for creating a legally authorized national ethical literature, reinforcing the importance of this specific Greek text to the authors of the Torah and Hebrew Bible in the early Hellenistic Era. This study offers a fascinating analysis of the background to the Pentateuch, and will be of interest not only to biblical scholars, but also to students of Plato, ancient law, and Hellenistic literary traditions.

"I find this a provocative, stimulating study. This is a significant and exciting contribution to the growing field of interdisciplinary scholarship that explores the influence of Greek culture on the Hebrew Bible. It should be of interest to a number of audiences, those interested in the Hebrew Bible, classicists, comparatists, philosophers and political scientists." - Dr Bruce Loudon, The University of Texas at El Paso, USA About the Author Russell E. Gmirkin is a writer, researcher, and Dead Sea Scrolls scholar living in Portland, Oregon. He is the author of *Berosus and Genesis, Manetho and Exodus: Hellenistic Histories and the Date of the Pentateuch* (2006).