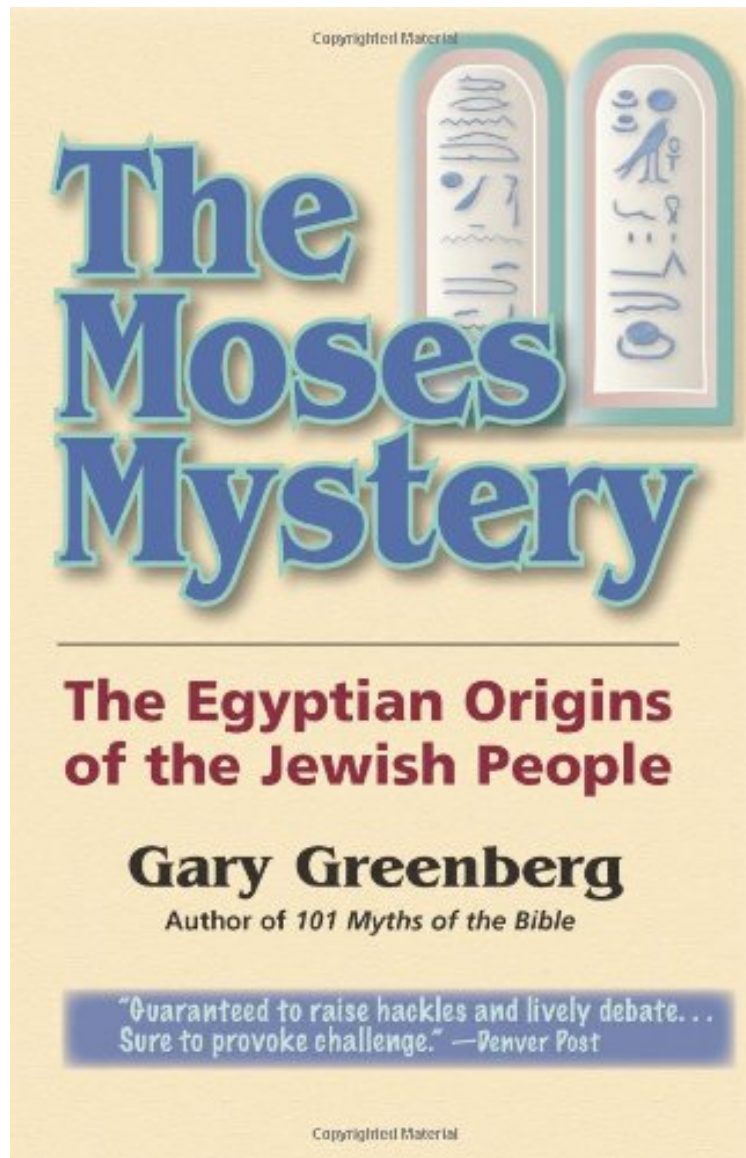


(Download free pdf) The Moses Mystery: The Egyptian Origins of the Jewish People

The Moses Mystery: The Egyptian Origins of the Jewish People

Gary Greenberg

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What Do History and Archaeology Really say about the origins of ancient Israel? Although the bible says that Israel's formative history took place in ancient Egypt, biblical scholars and Egyptologists have steadfastly refused to explore the role of Egyptian history and literature on the origins of Jewish religion. The Moses Mystery attempts to set the record straight. Based on extensive research into biblical and Egyptian history, archaeology, literature and mythology Greenberg argues that the first Israelites were Egyptians, followers of the monotheistic teachings of Pharaoh Akhenaten. Some of the many intriguing revelations in The Moses Mystery include: -Ancient Egyptian records specifically identify Moses as Akhenaten's chief priest and describe the Exodus as the result of a civil war for control over the Egyptian throne - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were characters from Egyptian mythology - The Twelve Tribes of Israel never existed

From Library JournalDespite the misleading subtitle, the principal thesis of this work by Greenberg, a trial attorney and president of the Biblical Archaeology Society of New York, is simply that the monotheistic religion of ancient Israel originated in the Aten cult of ancient Egypt. While Yahwism in some ways resembles Atenism, the claim that Yahwism derives directly from it is probably incorrect. For instance, Yahweh is in origin no benevolent sun god like Aten but rather a god of thunder, cataclysm, and war. Greenberg makes other less defensible claims, for instance, that the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 are really Egyptian dynastic chronology in disguise. He energetically pursues this very speculative proposal throughout the entire book. One has the feeling, though, that the author decided in advance what his conclusions would be and organized the sketchy archaeological and literary data to prove it. Dense with footnotes and complex in its reasoning, the book presumes a good background in ancient Egyptian history; it is for specialists, not for casual readers. For academic libraries.?James F. DeRoche, Alexandria, Va.Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistGreenberg is a senior trial attorney with the Criminal Division of Legal Aid in New York City and president of the Biblical Archaeology Society there. Emphasizing the absence of archaeological evidence of early Jewish history, Greenberg argues that "the refugees departing Egypt during what later became known as the Exodus were native Egyptians, devoted followers of the pharaoh Akhenaten." Moses, he suggests, "was the chief priest of the Aten cult" ; when Akhenaten died, Moses fled and then "attempted a military coup . . . to restore the Aten cult to the throne," ending in "a negotiated truce that guaranteed the insurgent army safe passage out of the country." Scholars will question at least some aspects of Greenberg's research, and given his stress on timelines in Egyptian and Jewish history, one could view his study as closer to it could have happened this way than it did happen this way. But it's a "hot" subject, and Greenberg's publisher hopes this work will appeal to students of (and opponents to) Afrocentrism. Consider cautiously. Mary Carroll A must read for those interested in biblical scholarship. -- The Tennessee TribuneAn ingenious comparison of Biblical and Egyptian history. -- An ingenious comparison of Biblical and Egyptian history. --St. Louis Post-DispatchGuaranteed to raise hackles and lively debate . . . Sure to provoke challenge. -- Denver PostInsightful and valuable. -- KMT MagazineThis is an intriguing and controversial book, bound to add fuel to the still smoldering debate between Afrocentrists and classicists over Africa's role in the evolution of Western culture and civilization. -- MultiCultural