

fore, that the original prophet or Seer, to whom the narrative of creation was revealed, lived before Abraham; but we need not doubt but the latter had the benefit of divine guidance in his noble stand against the idolatry of his age; and in his selection of the documents on which his own theology was based. These considerations help us to understand the persistence of Hebrew Monotheism in the presence of the idolatries of Canaan and Egypt, since these were closely allied to the Chaldean system, against which Abraham had protested. They further illustrate the nature of the religious basis in his people's belief on which Moses had to work, and on which he founded his theocratic system. Before leaving this part of the subject, I would observe that the view above given, while it explains the agreement between the Hebrew Genesis and other ancient religious beliefs, is in strict accordance with the teachings of Genesis itself. The history given there implies monotheism and knowledge of God, as the Creator and Redeemer in antediluvian and postdiluvian times, a decadence from this into a systematic polytheism; at a very early date, the protest and dissent of Abraham, his call of God to be the upholder of a pure faith, and the maintenance of that faith by his descendants. Besides this, any careful reader of Genesis and of the book of Job, which, whatever its origin, must be more ancient than the Mosaic law, will readily discover indications that Abraham and the patriarchs were in the possession of documents and traditions of the same import with those in the early chapters of Genesis, and that these were to them their only sacred literature." I have here from necessity given such an extended extract from the book, on seeing that its numerous statements and particulars were so connected or interwoven, that they could not conveniently be separately given and pass under comment. Still proceeding on the preceding plan of separating *fact* from *fiction*, or invention, I find that the long extract contains only the few following *Facts* or *Truths*:—1. "Monotheism and knowledge of God as creator in the early times mentioned, and decadence from it." 2.—"The call of God to Abraham to be the upholder of a purer faith." The following are the numerous Fictions and Falsities. 1.—Abraham carrying from Chaldea in a "written" or any other form "the records of his people." (Not the slightest intimation of it in Scripture or elsewhere.) 2.—He and his tribe carrying with them the substance of that part of Genesis containing the history of the world to his time. 3.—Its being a precious heir-loom. 4.—Its being incorporated in