

Appendix B

The Ebla Tablets and the Bible

- I. What Is The Significance of Ebla?
 - A. 20,000 Clay Tablets found there. This is more tablets than that produced by all of the excavations to that point.
 - B. Shows that a great empire existed in that area that was unknown to this point. It was an extensive kingdom that traded from Mesopotamia to Egypt.
 - C. This has the potential of rewriting most of the ancient histories of that time. David Noel Freedman said that it was like just finding the city of Rome.
 - D. The tablets are datable to the year 2250 B.C.
- II. What Are The Tablets About?
 - A. They contain extensive trade records.
 - B. They have the oldest reference to Jerusalem dating before Abraham. The reference is to Salem.
 - C. Contain a lot of information about sacrificial systems. This pushes the notion of sacrifices back to 2250 B.C., well beyond the assertion of the Wellhausians that the **P** document dates to the eighth century.
- III. Some Examples
 - A. Documentarians said Moses could not have written the law - it was too sophisticated. Ebla contains a tablet containing a law against rape that looks a lot like that in the Decalogue.
 - B. Many said there was no writing in the days of Moses. Hammurabi and Ebla show that there was writing and extensive law codes in Moses' time.
 - C. Documentarians assert that the two names of God show that there was two sources, J and E, which were used to produce the Pentateuch. The Ebla tables show that many gods in those days had two or more names.
 - D. Documentarians assert that the creation story has been edited into the Bible by Ezra around 400 B.C.
 - E. There is a creation tablet from Ebla that is as close to Genesis 1 as has ever been discovered.

*“There was no heaven, Lugo formed it.
There was no earth, Lugo formed it.
There was no sun, Lugo formed it.
There was no moon, Lugo formed it.”*

Lugo means “the big one, the great one.”
- IV. Major Points from Ebla

- A. Use of personal names which show that these names were common in 2300 B.C.
Include Abraham, Ishmael, David, Israel, Esau, Saul.
Kings are named which we know from other sources is history.
Sigon is mentioned (of Akkad).
- B. Bible cities are referred to by name.
Sodom, Gomorrah, and the other cities of the plains are mentioned in the same order as they are in the Bible.
It speaks of Ur as being in the territory of Haran. The Bible speaks of two Urs, Ur of the Chaldees. The Bible makes it clear that Abraham came from Ur of the Chaldees thus showing that the Bible writer was aware of two Urs.
- C. References to other peoples.
Sumerians, Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites are mentioned.
- D. Relevance to the Documentary Hypothesis
Disproves many points of the Documentary Hypothesis.
- E. Other religious concepts.
One tablet deals with Dilmun, the land of creation.
The concept of a supreme being associated with creation is found in the Ebla tablets.