

to Moses. Jesus Christ and the Apostles concur in this ascription. So we see that the Bible throughout presents the Pentateuch as essentially the work of Moses, and as the foundation upon which the rest of the Bible rests. Can this representation stand the test of historical study and of philological research?

Could Moses have written? Was the art of writing known as early as the time of Moses? This question used to be seriously asked, but the discoveries made in Egypt by Napoleon's expedition produced writing antedating the time of Moses by several hundred years.

Could Moses have written Hebrew? On the great temple at Karnak is writing by Tothmes III, some time before the date given to Moses, on which he names many cities in Syria and Palestine which he says that he conquered. The writing is in Hieroglyphics, but in the naming of these cities we find our earliest known attempt at an alphabet. The sounds of the names of the cities are denoted by signs. Several signs are used for the same sound, but a clear attempt at representing sounds by signs is made. When deciphered, the names are found to be Hebrew.

Could Moses have written the kind of Hebrew we have in the Old Testament? The Tel-el-Amarna letters, which also antedate the time of Moses, contain parenthetical ~~in~~ translations of some of their Babylonian statements into Hebrew. They show that Hebrew was better known than Babylonian in Egypt in that early time. The Hebrew is written in cuneiform, but when transliterated, it proves to give the same type of Hebrew which we have in the Old Testament. Moses certainly might have written the Pentateuch in the same kind of Hebrew which we have today. Possibly he wrote it in the type of script used in the Tel-el-Amarna letters, i.e. in cuneiform.