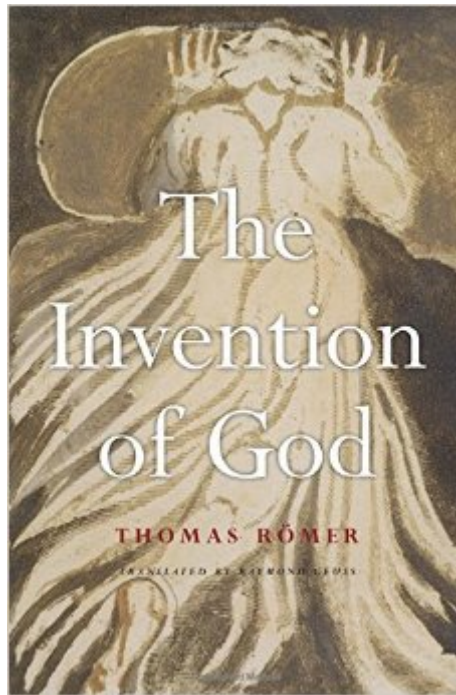


The book was found

The Invention Of God



Synopsis

Who invented God? When, why, and where? Thomas R. L. Thompson seeks to answer these questions about the deity of the great monotheisms—Yhwh, God, or Allah—by tracing Israelite beliefs and their context from the Bronze Age to the end of the Old Testament period in the third century BCE. That we can address such enigmatic questions at all may come as a surprise. But as Thompson makes clear, a wealth of evidence allows us to piece together a reliable account of the origins and evolution of the god of Israel. Thompson draws on a long tradition of historical, philological, and exegetical work and on recent discoveries in archaeology and epigraphy to locate the origins of Yhwh in the early Iron Age, when he emerged somewhere in Edom or in the northwest of the Arabian peninsula as a god of the wilderness and of storms and war. He became the sole god of Israel and Jerusalem in fits and starts as other gods, including the mother goddess Asherah, were gradually sidelined. But it was not until a major catastrophe—the destruction of Jerusalem and Judah—that Israelites came to worship Yhwh as the one god of all, creator of heaven and earth, who nevertheless proclaimed a special relationship with Judaism. A masterpiece of detective work and exposition by one of the world's leading experts on the Hebrew Bible, *The Invention of God* casts a clear light on profoundly important questions that are too rarely asked, let alone answered.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press (December 14, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674504976

ISBN-13: 978-0674504974

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #126,281 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Theology #114 in Books > History > World > Religious > Judaism #211 in Books > History > World > Religious > General

Customer Reviews

Probably better to call this excellent book *The Reinvention of God* because it chronicles the evolution and recreation of an obscure wind and warrior god of a Middle Eastern nomadic tribe into the only god complete with a sacred book and a monotheistic ideology that still shapes three of the

world's major religions. While the book is accessible to dedicated lay readers, it sometimes lapses into academic jargon and technical detail that is off-putting. Some readers may benefit, as I did, from first reading the same author's reader-friendly paperback, *DARK GOD: CRUELTY, SEX, AND VIOLENCE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT*. As a fan of Sigmund Freud, I was disappointed to see that Roemer dismisses Freud's classic work on Moses and Monotheism with a passing remark and a single footnote. Nevertheless, this is a classic piece of historical analysis.

Most enlightening survey of the origin of the Judaic and Christian concepts of the one God. The book is erudite but highly readable. Not to be missed by any one interested in how Judeo-Christian religion originated and developed.

This is a deep thinker with a good writing skill, able to express his thoughts in a well constructed way. Whether you agree with him or not, he has worked out his theories with logic and clear thinking.

I don't know whether this theological history is more accurate than speculative, but it makes fascinating reading. With an anti-clerical sounding title, the book is more history than theology, although it does incorporate non-trivial distinctions between monotheism and polytheism. Covering history of the Middle-east from about 1300 to 300 BCE, with religion of the Jews throughout the periods of Assyrian, Egyptian and Babylonian hegemony. Initial parts are difficult to follow, being based on references to biblical and archaeological research rather than a continuous chronology. The very interesting contention is that El, coming to Israel from other sources, was one of many gods. The major part of the book accounts for how he morphed into Yhwh the single God of Israel. Jews either didn't know or wouldn't disclose his name, enabling a mystery for an exclusive position as the tribe witnessing monotheism. The reforms of Josiah after, discovery of Deuteronomy, were a key episode, followed by the synagogue of the diaspora that finalized the transformation. The author certainly knows his topic and does a good job of popularizing much erudite research.

This is a worthwhile read. It traces the development of religion as we know it.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Summary - The Invention Of Wings: Novel By Sue Monk Kidd --- An Incredible Summary (The Invention Of Wings: An Incredible Summary-- Paperback, Summary, Audible, Novel, Audiobook)
Patent Drafting Secrets- How to write a patent application for an invention and how to draft a patent

application for an invention The Invention of God The Man Who Knew Too Much: Alan Turing and the Invention of the Computer (Great Discoveries) The Philadelphia Chromosome: A Genetic Mystery, a Lethal Cancer, and the Improbable Invention of a Lifesaving Treatment Invention by Design; How Engineers Get from Thought to Thing The Most Powerful Idea in the World: A Story of Steam, Industry, and Invention National Geographic Concise History of Science and Invention: An Illustrated Time Line The Essential Inventor's Guide: Step-by-step methods to successfully evaluate, patent, and market your invention on a budget The Invention That Changed the World: How a Small Group of Radar Pioneers Won the Second World War and Launched a Technical Revolution The Invention of Heterosexuality Invention Of Women: Making An African Sense Of Western Gender Discourses Creativity: The Psychology of Discovery and Invention Soul Machine: The Invention of the Modern Mind Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War (Fred W. Morrison Series in Southern Studies) The Invention of Sodomy in Christian Theology (The Chicago Series on Sexuality, History, and Society) The Japan of Pure Invention: Gilbert and Sullivan's The Mikado La invención de la naturaleza: El mundo nuevo de Alexander von Humboldt / The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World (Spanish Edition) The Invention of Enterprise: Entrepreneurship from Ancient Mesopotamia to Modern Times (The Kauffman Foundation Series on Innovation and Entrepreneurship) The Invention of Beethoven and Rossini: Historiography, Analysis, Criticism

[Dmca](#)