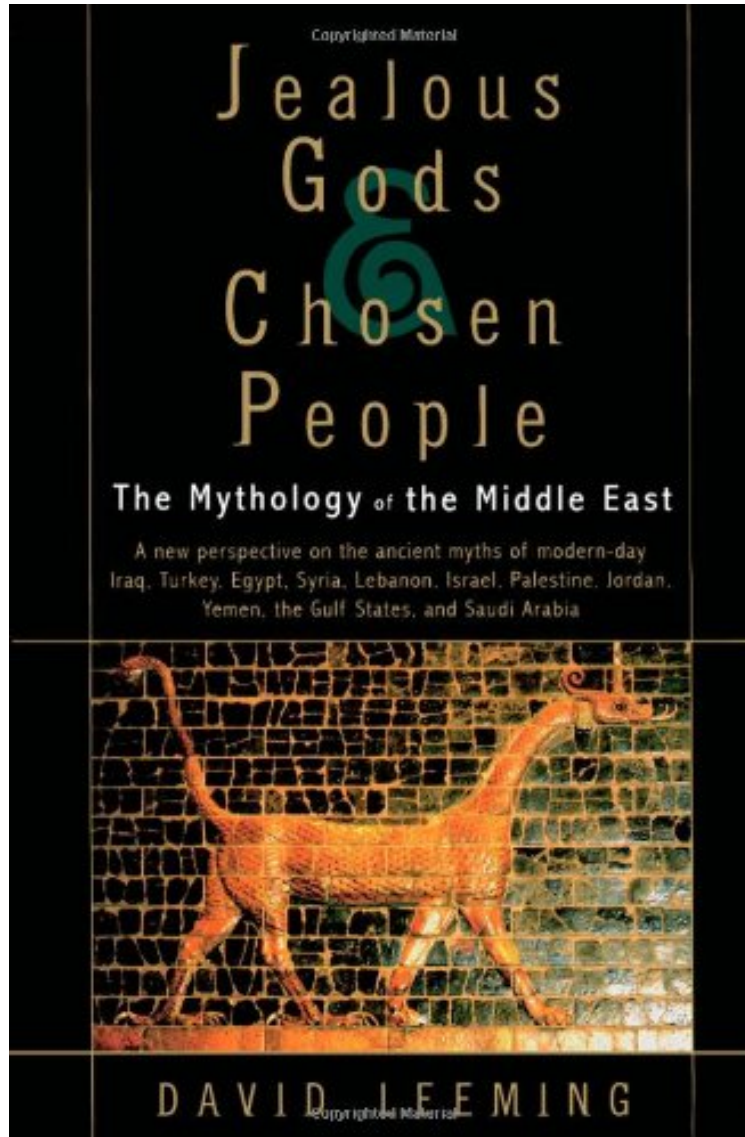


(Mobile ebook) Jealous Gods and Chosen People: The Mythology of the Middle East

Jealous Gods and Chosen People: The Mythology of the Middle East

David Leeming

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#3521558 in Books David Leeming 2004-03-04Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.30 x .80 x 9.40l, .92 #File Name: 0195147898160 pagesJealous Gods and Chosen People The Mythology of the Middle East | File size: 54.Mb

David Leeming : Jealous Gods and Chosen People: The Mythology of the Middle East before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jealous Gods and Chosen People: The Mythology of the Middle East:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good for Quick Mythological Summaries, does not meet his ThesisBy Patricia JoyceIn his book Jealous Gods and Chosen People David Leeming looks to argue that the three

major religions of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam intersect and share values that can only be called mythological and not reality. Although they hold great spiritual influence the myths can only be myths and therefore the religions cannot claim exclusivity as they do. Leeming's thesis is that, with nonexclusionary [sic] vision, other peoples' religious narratives can be seen as tribe-defining cultural dreams and as significant metaphors that can speak truthfully to people across cultural and sectarian boundaries (Leeming, ix). Leeming begins his work by discussing the many interactions of the cultures he will discuss the myths of, starting with the Paleolithic Age, which is the beginning of the domestication of animals, irrigation, and buildings that would lead to later civilizations. The Neolithic Age that saw the development of weaponry, tools, pottery to store grains, bricks for building, and the development of villages and towns. Then with the dominance of the Sumerians in the Bronze Age the first known writing was developed, cuneiform, which marked the beginning of recorded history. From the recorded history Leeming shows how these cultures have crossed paths with one another and likely have shared myths. The second part of Leeming's book looks at the mythology of these cultures, and how they share common themes. Each of the stories and gods he gives descriptions of our very brief summaries, and would be better for students or scholars with some knowledge of the background to them. He begins with the mythology of Prehistory and the discovery of Catal Hyk in 1957. Which Leeming argues is the most revealing of prehistoric sites anywhere (Leeming, 33). This site showed evidence for a mother goddess cult, afterlife, and sacred marriage, leading into the future concepts of the written history of Mesopotamia. Summarizing the following Mesopotamian texts: The Sumerian Creation, Enki and Ninmah, Enki and Ninhursaga, Enlil and Ninlil, Enlil and Sud, Ninurta and Ninhursaga, Inanna and Enki, Inanna and Utu, Inanna and Dumuzi, Inanna's Descent to the Underworld, and Marduk, the Enuma Elish and the Babylonian Creation. He goes on to summarize the myths of heroes such as Enmerkar and Enshukeshdanna, Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta, Lugalbanda in the Mountains, and the most famous Epic of Gilgamesh. Then summarizing the Egyptian texts: The Heliopolitan Creation and Cosmology, The Hermopolitan Creation, and The Memphite Creation in which he compares Ptah to the Old Testament God in Genesis stating that Ptah is also considered the logos. The Theban Creation, The Creation of Humans by the god Shu, which included being made in the image of the gods. Ending the chapter with myths about Osiris and Isis, Horus and Seth, The Egyptian Flood, and the hero myth of Horus whom he compares to Jesus. He summarizes the following Anatolian myths, The Canaanite Creation, The Hebrew Creation and Flood, The Christian Creation, and The Gnostic Creation. Following with the hero myths of Danel and Aqhat, which compares to the story of David and Absalom, Abraham and His Family, Moses, and The Heroes of the Israelite conquest, John the Baptist, and Jesus. Then he shortly summarizes the following Arabian texts, which are just a few, The Muslim Creation and Flood, the heroes Ibrahim and Ismail (Abraham and Ishmael), Musa (Moses), Isa and Maryam (Jesus and Mary), and Muhammad. In the eyes of Leeming all of these stories and figures are nothing more than myths that are shared, and should be treated as such. Not allowing for these major religions to cause conflict in the East as they do. Which Leeming rightly shows is directly against the knowledge of their myths that they claim to be true. Leeming brings a new light to the story of the descent of Ishtar with his quick discussion of the elements of her that he claims Ishtar leaves at each of the seven gates. The elements of her are ritual, priesthood, political power, security, crafts, animal husbandry, agriculture, sexual behavior, family, and decision-making. These elements Leeming states are what Ishtar leaves at the gates in the form of jewelry as she is being stripped of her possessions. Leeming gives more insight into the mythological narrative of the real king Gilgamesh. He discusses the intersection of Gilgamesh's myth with that of Etana, Sargon, Moses, and Jesus. As a newborn who is considered a threat to the throne, after being thrown out of a tower Gilgamesh is saved by an eagle and becomes an orchard worker, and later king. Much like the Hebrew story of Moses who is set adrift in waters near Pharaoh's daughter who takes him in and makes him royalty. Just as in Gilgamesh's narrative as a threat to the throne Jesus was considered a threat to the throne, and both had attempts on their lives as babes. Also as discussed, Leeming writes about the dispute in the Baal epic about windows in his temple. However, Leeming brings a new idea that the reason death (Mot) enters into his window is likely because after the temple is built Baal stops making tribute to Mot. He also shows the connection between Baal's temple being built and Yahweh's temple, but claims both are likely types of creation accounts. Aside from the first part of the book, because it is so brief and quickly run through, Leeming's work is quite easy to read, and is quite entertaining. It will be found useful for undergraduates of history or theology looking to get a quick background on the Ancient Near East. His summaries or interpretations of the different mythological ideas make reading the mythological texts easier, and bring new insights. However, the mis-use of certain biblical texts, or misrepresentation of them does leave a knowledgeable reader wondering what other so-called myths are misrepresented in the work. It should be considered an assistant to the study on the topic of Ancient Near Eastern mythology, and not used as the only source in a study, in order to compare and contrast opinion versus truth. 2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not for the non-academic reader. By RRH Shay Model A Very disappointing, requires in-depth knowledge of the subject matter to follow the story lines. Each sentence chock full of names and/or dates. Boring and difficult to comprehend for persons not already well versed in this field. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars. By Angelaugh for a class

Esteemed scholar David Leeming, who has authored more than twelve books on mythology, here offers the first

comprehensive narrative study of the mythology of the Middle East, that tumultuous region that was the cradle of civilization. Leeming begins with a brief, engaging history of the Middle East, spanning Neolithic cultures, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, the invention of writing and the rise of Egypt and Babylonia, Israel and Roman rule, and the early history of the Jews, Christians, and Muslims. This is followed by an in-depth discussion of the mythology of the region, covering individual pantheons, cosmic myths, mythic heroes, and much more. Leeming ranges from prehistoric figures such as the Mother Goddess of Atal Hyk to Mesopotamian gods such as Marduk and mythic heroes such as Gilgamesh, to the pantheon of Egyptian mythology, including the falcon-headed sky-sun god Horus and jackal-headed Anubis. The author also offers an illuminating exploration of the mythology of the three great monotheistic religions of the region: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In a provocative Epilogue, Leeming depicts today's crisis in the Middle East as "violent, clearly immoral, and illegal actions" justified by "what can only be called myths." He notes that fundamentalists in the area's three religions all see their way as the only way, forgetting that myths represent truths that are spiritual and philosophical--not historical events that can be used to justify acts of violence. With key maps, illustrations, bibliography, and index, *Jealous Gods and Chosen People* provides an inclusive, authoritative, and captivating account of a mythology that remains a potent--and often destructive--force in the world today.

From Publishers Weekly Teeming with gods, goddesses and heroes, the ancient Middle East served as the cradle of numerous mythologies that provided the religious, political and cultural foundations of civilizations from Egypt and Sumer to Palestine. In this helpful primer, Leeming (*Myth: A Biography of Belief*) summarizes the cultural and historical contexts in which various myths developed. He devotes the first section of his book to a brief chronological survey of the development of civilizations from prehistoric times through the Bronze and Iron Ages to the Crusades and finally the 20th century. He chronicles various features of the societies he examines, such as the Sumerians' invention of writing, the warlike nature of the Hyksos and the Hebrews' adaptation of Canaanite religion and ritual. In the book's second section, Leeming sketches each culture's mythologies, examining their pantheons of gods and heroes and retelling their major myths. Thus, in his chapter on Mesopotamia, Leeming introduces us to gods like Marduk who killed the storm goddess Tiamat and chopped her into pieces, thus creating the earth--and heroes like Gilgamesh, whose divine birth and trip to the underworld provided later models for Moses and Jesus. Flood myths are common to all of these cultures, so Leeming retells the myth from the Mesopotamian *Enuma Elish* (which features Gilgamesh); the biblical book of Genesis, featuring Noah; and the Islamic tale starring Nuh, or Noah. Leeming's useful survey offers an introductory guide to tales that for centuries have influenced people's religion and culture. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Leeming provides an excellent introduction to the important mythologies formulated by peoples whose descendants still shape the conflicts in the Middle East. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all arose in the Middle East, and in accessible and graceful prose, Leeming illuminates the archaeological and cultural background for the emergence of those warring-cousin belief systems. His excellent historical introduction describes the area's Paleolithic hunter-gatherers, the agricultural revolution in the Neolithic period, and the rise of the great cities of Sumer and Ur; the invention of writing during the Bronze Age; and the development of Hebrew culture in the ensuing Iron Age. The rest of the book he devotes to summaries of the various mythologies of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Anatolia, Arabia, the Muslims, and the western Semites. He includes controversial material, such as the theory of an original Qur'an containing "satanic verses" that admitted to earlier goddesses in the form of angels, as well as more standard information about the pantheons and mythic narratives of these important cultures. Patricia Monaghan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Leeming's useful survey offers an introductory guide to tales that for centuries have influenced people's religion and culture."--Publishers Weekly "An excellent introduction to the important mythologies formulated by peoples whose descendants still shape the conflicts in the Middle East. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all arose in the Middle East, and in accessible and graceful prose, Leeming illuminates the archaeological and cultural background for the emergence of those warring-cousin belief systems."--Booklist "In this accessible survey of Middle Eastern mythology, Leeming chooses not to dwell on competing ideologies and predicaments of the troubled region and instead demonstrates that spiritual truth and religion, like mythology, make for metaphorical rather than factual history.... This book offers an accessible treatment of a dense and complex topic that will be equally useful to nonspecialists and scholars seeking a quick and informed understanding of Middle Eastern mythology. Highly recommended for any public or academic library."--Library Journal