

# **THE LAW OF HAMMURABI AND MOSES: A SKETCH**

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The Law of Hammurabi and Moses: A Sketch by W. T. Piltner & Hubert Grimme

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**W. T. PILTER & HUBERT GRIMME**

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MOSES: A SKETCH**



THE LAW OF HAMMURABI AND  
MOSES

THE  
LAW OF HAMMURABI  
AND MOSES

A SKETCH

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF  
HUBERT GRIMME

*Professor of the Semitic Languages in the University of Freiburg, Switzerland*

TOGETHER WITH  
A TRANSLATION FROM THE BABYLONIAN OF THE LAWS  
DISCUSSED, AND CHAPTERS ON  
THE HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY OF THE  
HAMMURABI AND MOSAIC CODES

BY THE  
REV. W. T. PILTER

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**HISTORY I**

## PREFACE

THIS book consists of two parts: first, a translation of a *brochure* by Professor Hubert Grimme, to which I append a version from the Babylonian of such of the laws of Hammurabi's Code as he discusses in detail; and, secondly, of a series of chapters by myself.

Hammurabi's *stela* is, and must remain, a conspicuous landmark in the historical and legal study of the Old Testament, but, so far as I am aware, no writer except Professor Grimme has appeared to discuss this great monument of the Abrahamic age in a manner at all satisfactory to students who believe the Old Testament to be authentic and historically true. For such persons, and, indeed, for all earnest-minded inquirers, this sketch of his appears to me likely to be very helpful, a contribution of value to the understanding both of Hammurabi's and the Mosaic Codes, and also of the relationship, or otherwise, between them. Hence this translation of Professor Grimme's sketch.

But for many English readers further information appeared to be required, and some points to call for



development and for illustration from the ancient inscribed monuments; hence the second part of this volume, which may serve as a succinct, practical introduction to the archæology of the Pentateuch from the period of Abraham. In its pages I have sought to set forth briefly the history of the Hammurabi period in Babylonia and how it affected the patriarchs of Israel; the state of culture which surrounded the Hebrews from the days of Abraham to Moses; the history of Hammurabi's Code in later Babylonia, and its influence, or otherwise, upon the laws of Israel; and how the political and legal, the geographical and historical conditions, and the institutions, both legal and ceremonial, of the times, as brought before us by contemporary monuments, are faithfully reflected in the pages of the Pentateuch. My contribution closes with two further chapters—one of them applying Professor Grimme's method to a subject of Pentateuchal law which lies outside the special sections he discusses, and the other illustrating—by an incident which was fresh in the minds of the people of Galilee and South Syria at the time of my sojourn there, now some years ago—what would be the practical working of a section of Hammurabi's Code.

In submitting the archæological evidence, I have not only sought to give the facts as faithfully as possible, but also I have added quotations or references to the sources, so that even the non-expert student may be in a better position to appraise the statements made

in this book and by other writers on the subjects discussed. As henceforth it would seem scarcely likely that any critical introduction to the Old Testament or commentary on any book of the Pentateuch can fail to refer to Hammurabi's *stela* and other monuments herein considered, it is hoped that this little work supplies such information as will be of real use to clergymen and other public teachers and to working students.

I have to thank Professor Grimme for kindly permitting his *brochure* to appear in its present form. For my translation he has revised his original throughout, added the whole of the passage on the ancient Arabian inscriptions (a subject in which he is known to be specially interested), and a new Foreword. He is in no way responsible for any additions of my own, which are always definitely marked off from his work by, at least, square brackets [ ], usually followed by the contracted word TRANS. For the Table of Contents here given, the division into chapters, the chapter-headings and Index, I am also responsible.

The quotations from the Bible are given, usually, from the Revised Version.

W. T. PILTER.

WELBECK LODGE,  
NORTH FINCHLEY,  
1st February, 1907,

