

Gustav Oehler: "If we deny the exodus of Israel from Egypt, and the giving of the law from Sinai, the OT religion floats in the air. Such facts can no more be separated from the religion of the OT than the historical facts of Christ's person can be from Christianity ... Here indeed there must be strife between those who - and I avow myself to belong to this class - acknowledge as facts what the OT religion lays down as such, and are consequently convinced that the *thing believed* was also a thing which *took place* ; and between those who see in the OT faith mainly a product of religious *ideas* , the historical basis of which can be ascertained only by a critical process resting on rationalistic presuppositions,"

Theology of the Old Testament (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1883), pp. 9-10

Cited in: http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/bets/vol11/11-3_payne.pdf