

From “Myth” to “History”:
History Writing and Historians of the Ancient World
(up to the 2nd century B.C.)

I. Egyptian Tradition

- A. General Outlook and Approach
- B. Characteristic Representation of History Writing
- C. New Developments

II. Hebrew Tradition

- A. The Bible as “History”
- B. Conception of History
- C. Methods

III. Greek Tradition

- A. Influences of the Development of History Writing
 - 1. Homer
 - 2. Philosophy
- B. Greek Historians: The Classical Period
 - 1. Hecataeus of Miletus (fl. 500 B.C.)
 - 2. Herodotus of Halicarnassus (fl. 430 B.C.)
 - a. Homer’s Influence
 - b. Herodotean “Invention”
 - c. “Invention” Explained
 - 1. ἀπόδειξις ἱστορίας (*apodexis historias*) “demonstration of his research”
 - d. *Histories*
 - 1. Scope
 - 2. Purpose
 - 3. Subjects
 - 4. Outlook and Ethnography
 - 3. Thucydides (c. 460/55 – c. 400 B.C.)
 - a. Background
 - b. Comparison with Herodotus
 - c. *Histories*
 - 1. Composition Issue
 - 2. Assumptions
 - 3. The “Archeology (1.1-23)
 - d. Influences
 - 1. Science and Medicine
 - 2. Philosophy
- C. Greek Historians: The Hellenistic Period
 - 1. Xenophon (c. 444 – c. 357 B.C.)
 - 2. Timaeus of Tauromenium (c. 350 – 260 B.C.)
 - 3. Polybius (c. 200 – c. 118 B.C.)
 - a. Purpose
 - b. Structure
 - c. “History” to Polybius
 - 1. πραγματική ἱστορία (*pragmatikê historia*) “serious/systematic history”
 - 4. Diodorus of Agrigium [a.k.a. Diodorus Siculus] (c. 104 – c. 20 B.C.)
 - a. New Direction for History Writing