

til a long time after them, that pretended extracts were given from the Egyptian, Phenician, and Babylonian annals. *Berosus* wrote only in the reign of Seleucus Nicanor; *Hieronymus* in that of Antiochus Soter, and *Manetho* under Ptolemy Philadelphus; the whole three having flourished only in the third century before the Christian era. That *Sanconiatho* was an author real or supposed, was not known till Philo of Byblos had published a translation of his work in the reign of Adrian, in the second century before Christ; and, when he did become known, there was nothing found in his account of the early ages, as in those of all the authors of this kind, but a puerile theogony, or metaphysical doctrines, so disguised under the form of allegory as to be unintelligible

One nation alone has preserved annals written in prose before the period of Cyrus, namely, the Jewish people. The part of the Old Testament which is known by the name of the *Pentateuch*, has existed in its present form, at least since the separation of the ten tribes under Jeroboam, since it was received as authentic by the Samaritans equally as the Jews, which assures us that its actual antiquity is upwards of 2800 years. Besides this, we have no reason to doubt the book of Genesis having been composed by Moses himself, which gives it an antiquity of 500 years more, or