

There is a hint in this week's portion concerning historical development. God tells Moses, after Moses complains that this whole liberation thing is not working as well as he had anticipated, that the reputation by which Moses and the Israelites will know God is not the reputation through which he was known by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

What is hinted at by this?

When something begins, it is highly personal. If I am helped, then I will be able to help others. Later, the tradition of being helpful is enough to encourage continuing that tradition of being helpful.

Each generation, however that is defined, understands reality differently. It is not reality which changes, usually, but it is the surroundings which have changed a bit. The truths derived from the situations in which the people find themselves in a particular generation remain for them. It is the rare person who can change their truths to match what they find over time; what usually happens is that these truths become the basis for habits which appear invisible to their owners.

These differences are appropriate, and God is okay with them.

If God is okay with them, maybe we should be as well. So let us strive to lose less patience when confronted with people who just don't seem to get it, whatever it is.