

They were very clever in the approaches they made. He opened ~~Rixkextxx~~ Fowler's book where it says the consonantal text of the OT was written c. 200 B.C. Have you read the consonantal text of the OT? I'm sure there is many a professor of Hebrew who has never read the consonantal text. But he's always used the text that has the vowels in it. But it just happened that when I got out of seminary my eyes gave me considerable trouble and I got a copy of the consonantal text and used it a great deal. So I had no difficulty saying, O certainly, I've used that a great deal. Then he said, Have you read the Massoretic text? That was a rather ignorant & question to ask because everyone who reads the Hebrew reads the Masoretic text. I said Yes. He was sort of softening me up for the kill. He said, Do you know the meaning of every Heb. word in the book of Job? If a person had studied Genesis, the Pentateuch, and maybe some of the Psalms and maybe had spent years studying but had never done much studying of the book of Job it was a perfect opportunity to prove him to be an utterly foolish witness. Because a person would say, Yes, Of course. Then all they would have to do would be to bring out some verse in the book of Job where the text is probably corrupt and nobody on earth knows what the words mean and whatever you said, you could bring you some noted scholar who says it doesn't mean that at all.

He said, Do you know the meaning of every Heb. word in Job? I said, No and neither does anybody else. So he didn't proceed any further along that line. But they kept me on for about a day and in the course of it he brought up the thing he'd brought up to this minister. He said, Are you familiar with the name of J. G. Alders? I said, Yes and told a little bit about him. But he didn't pay any attention to what I told him. This was one of the disconcerting things. The lawyer sat over here and had 4 university professors next to him -- a prof. from Harvard, a prof. from the U. of Calif., three profs. from the U. of Washington. I guess there were five university professors there, and they were writing questions and handing them to him. Then he would ask a question and while I was answering it he'd be whispering to them and paying no attention to what I was saying while they were trying to work up the next question. So he did not pay any attention to my explanation of Alder's view and stand. Are you familiar with Alders' book, A Brief Introduction to the Pentateuch? I said, Yes, I'm quite familiar with it. He said, Here it is. Will you please read the sentence on p. so and so. I read something like this: The Pentateuch is an anonymous book. It is nowhere stated who wrote the first 5 books of the OT, either there or in the rest of the Bible. We do not know who wrote it."

Well, suppose we didn't know who wrote the Pentateuch. That's that's entirely different from saying, These books were written by the method which the higher criticism gives. Of a section being written hundreds of years after Moses, and then another section being written 200 yrs. later, and these being interwoven. Then 300 yrs. later another section & its being interwoven with the previous. Then 200 yrs. later another section and its interwoven. It's an entirely different position from what Dr. Aldrich takes.