

because some of us insist on superficial interpretations, and give them out as if they were what the Bible teaches. Yet there still remain very definite problems. But on these problems we have a tremendous amount of evidence that has come to light in recent years.

The sad thing is that these are evidences which if they had been discovered a century ago would have been headlines in the newspapers and given tremendous publicity. These discoveries today are found down in a footnote in a scholarly book somewhere. The people who are working in these fields are very largely so indoctrinated that they do not feel like giving the press to those discoveries and to those facts that fit with the Word of God.

I do not believe that anything else has had as great an influence in destroying people's faith as has the so-called Graf-Wellhausen theory, that is the deistic theory of the books of the Pentateuch. This is what I have been working on for the past year as Dr. McIntire has pointed out. I have worked on it off and on for the last 35 years, but it has been only one of various Biblical subjects I have been studying. But in this last year I have been going into all the recent material I can on it, and also much of the earlier material. I do not feel that anything else has been as powerful a force in destroying people's faith as this theory which Wellhausen originated - he did not altogether originate it - but gave it the form in which it came to be accepted. And it was his brilliant advocacy which caused it to be so widely accepted. Wellhausen's theory as he presented it in 1878 is taught today almost exactly as he gave it; taught in just about every theological seminary in the world that's over 50 yrs. old and a good many that are younger. And in every in practically every university where anything is taught about the Bible.

Last summer we saw the Syllabus that is used in the University of Washington in the course in the Bible as Literature. The bulk of it instead of talking about the Bible as literature talks about the books originated by purely natural sources and purely natural means and methods, and several pages were given showing this Graf Wellhausen theory as the way in which these books came into existence. And that's at the very roots and foundation and faith in God's Word.

I've been surprised to find how in these last few years Roman Catholic books, Jewish books, many Protestant books which have come out in these last few years present this as established, unquestioned fact, and yet the basis upon which it was built have practically all disappeared. The foundation for it has been nibbled away by new facts that have been discovered and part of the foundation if you examine it closely you'll find was just imagination in the first place. But it is such a complicated thing that it is difficult to make these points clear and that's one reason why I don't like to rush into print about it. I would like to study it very carefully and to deal with it in such a way that no unbeliever can say this is unfair the way you have handled it. They will have to recognize it is a true picture of exactly how it is and yet to show just the weaknesses are in it.