

Because it's so easy for the modernist, or the student in the schoolroom to simply say, All scholars believe it, it must be true. I don't understand it, it is pretty complicated but it must be true. While many of us say, Oh, it's a lot of nonsense, I don't know anything about it. So there is not much clash of thinking on it. So I'm hoping to write it up in clear enough fashion so it will be easy enough for someone to see exactly what it is, and then easy to see exactly what the evidences are for (against) it.

Now today the holders of the theory, though in all the main points they hold about exactly as Wellhausen did, back in 1878 nevertheless there is a very vital difference in their approach than in the approach which he took. Forty years ago they were absolutely dogmatic: there's no question this is true. Today they are a little more hesitant, at least the leaders, the ones who have done the most study are getting a little more hesitant of being quite so dogmatic about it and the reason for that is because in these last 100 yrs. we have discovered so many facts that fit with the Bible as written and don't fit with the Wellhausen theory. And there are so many many points at which it is clear that the five books of the Pentateuch present facts or presuppose, assume facts that archaeology shows us to have been actualy situations at the time to which it refers.

Wellhausen stated very baldly, he said in the Pentateuch we do not find anything that tells us about the days of Abraham, or those times, all we find is about the later times when these were written. He was very clear on that, it was entire a product of the imagination of the later time. There is a book that is used in hundreds of colleges as a textbook called Understanding the Old Testament, very interestingly put out about 10 yrs. ago. A new edition just out now with charts, maps and pictures. A very attractive book. In this book by Prof. Anderson, the Wellhausen theory is presented as established fact in order that you might understand the OT. But one page of this book has a chart that shows what the Wellhausen theory is and if Wellhausen could see that chart he would just shudder, ~~be~~ because it contradicts what Wellhausen strongly believed. That is the chart shows what Wellhausen taught but it adds to ~~w~~ it what would have disgusted Wellhausen. Now that chart which was in the early edition of the book, it is also in the new edition, shows you the different documents from which it says the Pentateuch was formed. It shows the J document written about 800 B.C., ~~the~~ about 850 B.C., the E. document about 750 B.C. Then the two lines from these going down and joining together as they claimed these two documents were interwoven to form one document they call JE. Then it shows the D document written about 621 B.C. and then a line going down from that and JE and then the two combined into JED; then it shows the P document over here starting c. 500 and then that going down and united with this other to form JEDP, the Pentateuch as we have it. Now Wellhausen would have exactly agreed with what he presents of these straight lines showing the development of these phases of these documents as he claimed them to be. But what Anderson has put in there which would make Wellhausen shudder is a dotted line above each of these lines going way back for hundreds of years earlier. And he puts in this dotted line in back of every one of these to show it going back to early tradition.