

almost everything ancient writing was formed by the coming together of various sections written by different people. This was applied to Homer, for instance/. Sixty years ago most scholars held that the Iliad and the Odyssey were made up of dozens of fragments that had in some way been fitted together. All sorts of theories were advanced about Homer. Sixty to eighty years ago one would find hardly could hardly find a scholar who would think there actually was one man who wrote the greater part of either of ~~these~~ these great ancient epics. This attitude was taken toward the German Niebelunglied (?) and toward the English epic, Beowulf, /toward most other ancient writings. Today it has been almost completely given up. It is safe to say that/not one scholar in one hundred a hundred would think of applying such a method to any ancient literature today.

During the last century a small group of scholars began to try to use this method in relation to the Bible. It began in France, in the middle of the 18th century, when a physician named John Astruc suggested that Moses had used forces (?) sources (?) in writing Genesis and divided/into two main sources, with about ten additional documents which he said Moses might have incorporated. He never questioned that Moses was the writer of it. This The theory was developed by other others and during a period of a century it went through a great many changes. Finally there was among the scholars who ~~worked~~ worked in this there was a consensus that divided the Pentateuch into documents of which one that they called the "J" document, and another was called the "P" document. The "P" document which began with Genesis 1 was considered to be the oldest oldest. The 7 "J" document was written later and added later. Then in the 1860's a German scholar named Graf suggested tried to combine this with the theor of evolution and worked out an idea of the evolution of religion whereby he thought that the "J" document should be earlier than the "P" document. So(nc) out of what were considered as the four main documents, ~~kw~~ what had previously been thought by nearly all critical scholars to be the earliest document, "P", was then