

system has ever been found as a separate unit, nor has any reference to any of them been found in ancient literature. The idea that they once had a separate existence is entirely based upon speculation from the materials found in our present manuscripts.

The idea of the original separate existence of these alleged documents did not begin with Wellhausen but came from divisive theories advanced much earlier. The development of these ideas had its start from theories about the book of Genesis.

We do not know how God gave Moses the information contained in Genesis. Some have felt that God must have revealed it all directly to him. While this is possible, it is not necessary to hold such a view. As we saw earlier it is entirely possible that Joseph's sons had the book of Genesis in their possession and passed it on to their descendants.

As the divisive theory was first presented, it claimed to be merely dealing with the question as to how Moses formed the book of Genesis, and was based upon the idea that became so common in the 19th century that most ancient books were composed by interlacing documents.

Although there were earlier suggestions in this direction, the divisive movement as regards the Pentateuch is generally said to have begun with J. Astruc, a French physician who wrote a book in 1753 in which he endeavored to show that Moses had compiled the book of Genesis by putting together two principal documents along with ten separate