

We read in the book of Isaiah (Jeremiah rather) Jeremiah 26 how Jeremiah wrote out a portion of the Word of God, and had his representative read it in the temple. When he did this, the king heard of it and he asked that it be brought to him. They brought it to the king, and we read in Jer. 26 how as they read various sections of it, the king took the sheets of paper and he took a pen knife and cut them to pieces and threw them into the fire. He tried to destroy the Word of God.

But we read toward the end of the chapter, Jeremiah dictated all that was in the original thing that M Jehoiakim tried to destroy and he dictated still more, of the Word of God, to his servant.

People through the ages have been trying to destroy the Word of God. But they have not succeeded because it is God's Word and it is dependable and true. Probably the attempts to destroy the Word of God have been more effective in the last few decades than ever before. The one reason which is most effective in this has been a movement that is generally spoken of as the higher criticism, or as the Graf-Wellhausen theory. This is a theory that you can take the book of Genesis and you can divide it UP INTO the J and the E and the P documents with a few vv. from this one, a few from that, a few from that, and you can see what the original sources were of the book of Gen. in fact of the rest of the Pentateuch.

You can divide it up into these sources and according to the theory none of these sources were dependable. They all came from a period long after the time when the actual events occurred. Wellhausen himself who wrote the theory which became so widely accepted in 1878, said, We can learn nothing of what happened in the time to which the book of Gen. and the other books of the Pentateuch are supposed to refer from the Bible. He said, all this represents things written at a much later period ~~than~~ showing the evolution of the history of Israel, and he said, there is absolutely no historical foundation in any of it.

This theory which Wellhausen presented in 1878 spread from Germany into England, and from England it spread through America and today it is in the S.S. Literature of most of our major denominations. Unfortunately we have very little reasonable discussion of this theory though it has a tremendous influence today in destroying faith in the Word of God. The average fundamentalist, the average real Christian, thinks the theory is a lot of nonsense and therefore he never pays much attention to it. And the average student who goes to a modernist college--which most of our so-called Christian colleges are today--~~when~~ he takes a course of religion in any university, gets the impression from what is taught that this is perfectly clear; that these are facts; there is nothing to argue about! So very few know much about the solid questions of fact that are involved in the question whether this theory is right or not.

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Mention was made of an issue of the Bulletin in which an article I wrote about the versions of the Bible. There are a number who would like to have copies of this so there are slips