

Up until about 1935 literary study throughout the world devoted a great part of its time to taking up almost any writing, even comparatively recent writing and trying to explain how this part came and this part came, and this part came, all by natural processes. It came together by processes which could be worked out and understood.

C. S. Lewis wrote an article about the higher criticism within the last 30 years. He said in this article there were many times when he had published a book and reviewers had explained just how his ideas had been ~~derived~~ derived, how they fit together, and he said there was not a single case in which they had come anywhere near the actual facts, of how they had come together.

Goethe, the great German poet was so impressed with the beginning of the higher criticism that when Prof. Wolf presented his ideas about Homer, Goethe got Wolf's daughter to hide him in a closet so that he could listen to him without embarrassing him by one of the most famous men being in his audience! He wrote a number of articles telling how wonderful this was. But as time went on Goethe became more and more convinced that an important writing had an important mind back of it, and this gradual coming together of ideas this way was something that whatever truth there is in it, or is not, cannot be figured out & with evidence that is available to human beings. This is more than 150 years ago, he publicly disavowed belief in it.

But about 1935 students of ordinary literature gave up this approach. They gave it up so completely that most people today don't know they ever had such an approach to literary subjects. But as I said in practically every university anywhere in the world where anything is taught about the Bible, and in practically every theological seminary that was in existence in 1900, this higher criticism is taught as the established result of scholarship!

So I mentioned during the last hour some of the magazines and journals which have had articles in them about the Son of Man in recent years, and these articles dealing with this subject show the great problem that use of the term Son of Man presents to the higher criticism. In view of this problem it is a subject of great interest and as I said we have at least 10 books in our library written during the last half of my own life which have the words Son of Man in their title. And during the last few years there have been many many articles written dealing with the understanding of the use of the words Son of Man in the Gospels.

So it has become a central feature in this whole matter of the higher criticism, at least of the NT. So I thought it was important to say a few words about the ~~is~~ this approach to this matter and the problem that it means, which it presents.

Here is an article in 1972 called, "Exit the Apocryphal Son of Man== the Apocalyptic Son of Man." In 1975, another scholar wrote an article called, "Re-enter the Apocalyptic Son of Man." Here is a man who wrote an article in a book of articles in 1969 called, "Is the Son of Man Problem Insoluble?" And in 1979 another wrote an article