

hypothesis

the documents were dated in accordance with the ~~theory~~ that Israel's religion had developed from a primitive to an advanced state. Wellhausen's unusually readable German style helped give the book a wide circulation, and the ~~evolutionary~~ ^{developmental} history of religion he presented found ready acceptance in a time when Darwin and Hegel had such influence.

No 91

In Germany, Wellhausen's presentation of the theory almost immediately gained the support of the younger scholars. The older men in Old Testament criticism did not rush to endorse the view, but ^{as} men do not live forever, ~~so~~ the theory gained almost complete acceptance within a generation.

hypothesis

No 91

In the English-speaking countries, ~~Wellhausen's hypothesis~~ ^{the JEOP ~~is~~ documentary theory} spread more slowly among the scholars but more rapidly among laymen. This seems to have been the case because ~~the major~~ ^{but the major} proponents of the theory, ~~writing in English~~ were Samuel Ralles Driver and William Robertson Smith, both pious men, who ~~took a more conservative approach to the New Testament than their continental counterparts.~~ ^{eventually gained support for the} ~~view~~ Driver's Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament, which appeared in 1891, has been a standard work on the ~~documentary theory~~ ^{hypothesis} in English. ~~It was recently reprinted in paperback by Meridian Books.~~

become

7. Recent Developments

Since the time of Wellhausen, there have been few changes in the ~~documentary theory~~ ^{hypothesis} which have gained wide acceptance. ~~One exception has involved the relative dating of E and J. Opinion has gradually shifted to favor J as the earlier.~~ However, many of the outstanding scholars in Pentateuch studies have advanced views which differ on the number of documents