

stood in many quarters. But personally I like what the word actually stands for. I like what the word should mean. I glory in it. And I believe that it is after all the most scientific approach to the study of the Near East and to the study of the O.T. (foot of page 13) So great was the hold of Hegelianism and so beautifully articulated were the various elements in the theory, in the Wellhausen theory, that it rapidly gained complete control in the field, almost complete control in the field of O.T. study, and for about 40 years it could be said that there was a general agreement among critics regarding all the main details of the interpretation of the Pentateuch. Then this stage of O.T. study began gradually to disappear as another came on the scene.

This third stage we might entitle the factual approach. The originators of the various source theories were able to work largely in a vacuum. At their time the O.T. stood practically alone. When Eichhorn and Divetti did their pioneering work in forming the theories which ultimately led to the Wellhausen approach, not a single one of the many languages, many pre-Christian languages and dialects, which have since been discovered had been deciphered, and few of them were even known to exist. Almost nothing was known of ancient history back of the time of the Greeks aside from the statements in the O.T. Therefore, there was nothing external about it, I mean from which to check source division. The passages could be divided and rearranged as suited the literary taste of the student.

When the next stage began, when Goff, Kunen and Wellhausen were engaged in formulating and presenting the beautiful theory which became dominant for so long a time, which was to become dominant for so long a time, the rediscovery of the ancient Orient had well begun, but comparatively few results of this were as yet available. The hieroglyphics of Egypt, the Cuneiform of Mesopotamia, the scripts of South Arabia, had already been deciphered. A fair stab could be made at reading some of the material contained in some of these languages. ~~The~~ A few excavations had been carried