

has been held by large groups of people for long periods of time, and then proven to be completely false and utterly discarded. This multi-documentary theory affects one's attitude toward the Old Testament in a most thoroughgoing way. If it is true it is vital that everyone become informed about it. If it is untrue one is doing himself a great disservice by accepting it uncritically. It is likely that most of those who accept it have simply done so on the authority of others, and have not examined the evidence to a sufficient extent to be able personally to form an intelligent judgment about it. It is the aim of this book to give an understanding of the exact situation of the evidences, so that a person can accept or reject it, not on the basis of authority, but on the basis of factual material.

For those who know nothing about the theory the remarks already made should be sufficient to show its importance. It is widely taught, and being more widely taught all the time. It greatly affects one's attitude toward the Old Testament, and eventually also toward the New Testament. One's relation to the Bible can have tremendous importance so far as his eternal destiny is concerned. Anyone who goes through life without investigating this matter and coming to a definite conclusion regarding it, is in the same situation as a man who would be in a country upon which a hydrogen bomb was scheduled to fall in the near future who did not look about for means of getting away from it. An intelligent person will surely investigate the evidences and be able to make a fair judgment on matters which can affect his eternal destiny most crucially.

For individuals in the second class mentioned we might at this point simply state a few facts which will be examined more fully later on. We shall point out that this theory represents an approach to literature which was widely held in the last century, but is almost entirely abandoned today. We shall mention that there is no new material of any kind that has been discovered in the last