

Justin.

Higher Criticism has rendered a valuable service by detecting frauds. We are grateful for its work in separating the authentic works of early Christian writers from later productions. None of the 66 books of the canon of Scripture has ever been proven to be fraudulent although various attempts have been made.

In 1805 W. M. De Wette declared that Deuteronomy was not written by Moses, but produced by the Jerusalem priests in the time of Josiah in an effort to increase their power and emoluments by centralizing the worship at Jerusalem. His idea won rapid acceptance among critics and it was common among liberal scholars to speak of the book as "a pious fraud." This view of Deuteronomy was held by most critical scholars until within the present century. Then archaeologists began to show that many parts of Deuteronomy reflect an earlier period than the time of Josiah. While most liberal scholars still believe that the book as a whole was put together nearer to the time of Josiah than to that of Moses, few if any would now call it "a pious fraud."

If Deuteronomy were indeed a fraud it would be a real service to have proof of this presented. If such proof were found evangelicals would be greatly amazed, as the book itself claims to be written by Moses and the New Testament often quotes from it as the work of Moses. Since Jesus accepted the entire Old Testament as God's Word, free from error and thoroughly dependable, one who accepts the Lordship of Christ, can rest assured that Moses wrote Deuteronomy, though its last chapter may have been added by Joshua at Moses' request.

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The major argument for considering that Deuteronomy was not written