

After the division of the Pentateuch and Isaiah, similar methods were applied to most of the other books of the Old Testament, and to those of the New Testament as well. At the present time these views are taught as established fact in most of the old-line theological seminaries in the world, and have naturally had a very destructive effect upon the faith of men training for the Christian ministry.

The ideas of the destructive criticism were originally advanced in France and Germany and then extended to Great Britain and the United States. After all, unbelievers are faced by a problem: if the Bible is not the Word of God, so that its writing was not supernaturally directed by His Spirit, then how did its various books come into existence? An attempt was made to relate them to a supposed development or evolution of ideas and practices. A number of extremely brilliant men participated in working out these theories, and in reshaping our knowledge of ancient history to fit with their ideas. Many sincere Christians found themselves unable to answer the arguments that were advanced, and therefore adopted ideas of the destructive criticism. However, as the years have gone by, more and more of the arguments have been proven, on close examination, not to be dependable. In instance after instance, archaeologists have discovered evidence that particular statements in the Old Testament are historically accurate in such a way as to show a knowledge on the part of the original writers that would hardly have been available to men writing after the lapse of many centuries, as required by the theories of the higher criticism.