

Wright, G. Ernest, The Old Testament Against Its Environment (SCM Press Ltd: London) 1950 reprinted 1960

p. 15 I find it necessary to agree with W. Eichrodt when he says that the source of the difficulty lies in the inability of the developmental hypothesis to take seriously the story of God's revelation and covenant at Mt. Sinai. Thus no fixed starting point is provided for the unfolding of Israel's knowledge of God. Even Wellhausen, the great pathfinder of the development history, often used to admit: 'Why Chemosh or Moab never became the God of righteousness and the Creator of heaven and earth, is a question to which one can give no satisfactory answer.'

p. 60 Literary criticism has shown a tendency to regard the covenant doctrine as a fairly late invention in Israelite religious history, finding its first elaborate expression in the Deuteronomic literature of the seventh century.²⁸
In early Israel the relation-

p.61 ship between Yahweh and people has been assumed to be a purely national one with little to distinguish it from the relation which existed between Chemosh and the people of Moab. The ground has been cut from under this view, however, by those German scholars who have been going beyond the methods of purely literary criticism to a criticism based on the history of tradition. Albrecht Alt and Martin Noth have shown without question that the early, pre-monarchical organization of Israel was utterly different from that of other contemporary people.²⁹

²⁸ Cf. Wellhausen, Prolegomena to the History of Israel, translated from the German by J. S. Black and A. Menzies (Edinburg, 1885), pp. 417 ff. The view is still retained by Pfeiffer, Introduction to the Old Testament (New York, 1941), pp. 52, 198, 551. . . .

²⁹ See especially Alt, Die Staatenbildung der Israeliten in Palästina (Leipzig, 1930) and Noth, Das System der zwölf Stämme Israels (Stuttgart, 1930).

p. 73 In the Old Testament there is such a close interrelation existing between theological content and literary form that the two cannot be separated.