

Story of Creation

Situation out of which it arose:

The Priestly editors re-edited a mythological account without eliminating all matters incongruous to their own views, but injecting into the final redaction the tenants of Judaism (193-4)

The P writers derived their idea of God as Creator of the world from Second Isaiah (194)

The P writers so completely rewrote the mythical creation story that it is no longer possible to reconstruct it in its original form (204)

The S document stories originated in different environments over a considerable area around the Dead Sea, but were apparently collected in Edom (162)

Document in which it is placed:

Ch. 1 - P Ch. 2 - S

P utilized a non-Israelite mythological poem (192). The P authors re-edited this old mythical account without eliminating all matter incongruous to their own views (193)

The S material of Gen. 1-11, which includes the story of Creation and of the Fall, was inserted into P. (160)

When it was composed:

P knew JE without this primeval history and he wrote an account that has no connections whatever with S and parallels S2 only in the Flood and in genealogies (160)

The Priestly code early in the 5th century ignores S completely, unless P in Gen. 1-11 was written as a substitute for S (166)

P - 500-400B.C. (22) S - time of Solomon in the 10th century (166)

Purpose of its composition

S document

The dozen stories of the S document are different in character and origin and were brought together, without being welded into an organic whole, by an editor expressing a definite philosophical viewpoint. They were used by the editor as vehicles for his philosophy of history (161). The stories of Gen. 2-11 undertake to explain why man has a body and soul (2.7), why man and woman are different and are yet one in matrimony (2.21-23) (162). The editor of S is conscious of a progress of civilization and he distinguishes five areas (163) in the technical progress of mankind corresponding to an increasing moral disintegration (164).

P document

The aim of the Priestly Code is to show how the only God in existence became the invisible sovereign of the Jewish community. From the moment when God created heaven and earth, his one purpose, according to P, was to separate Israel from the other nations, reveal his Law, give his covenant, and provide a country for it (191).

The authors of P searches with scholarly patience for written documents alone (203)