

named Johnson who had formerly been a senator from a southern state beginning with the letters Te (Texas). It is easy to see that at that future time some expert in derivation might say: "This story is obviously false, since it is so evidently derived from an earlier story which states that the President of the United States who was elected in 1860 was assassinated by a southern sympathizer and was succeeded by the Vice-President, a man named Johnson, who had formerly been a senator from a southern state beginning with Te (Tennessee)." Thus we have many similarities between these two events, and yet we know today that they are absolutely distinct and that neither story was in any way borrowed from the other. Most of the alleged cases of derivation of biblical stories or religious beliefs from pagan sources do not have nearly as much similarity as there is between these two events in American history.

In my opinion, the best procedure for scholarly refutation of such unscholarly statements as those to which you have referred, which, unfortunately, are being widely spread by people who are not trained in this field, is to try to get them to give some scholarly basis for their allegations. Then it would be easy to show that the alleged scholarly evidence does not warrant the conclusions that are being drawn from it. This latter part of the task could hardly be performed by a non-specialist in the field. However, it would not take me long to investigate any such particular alleged scholarly evidence that might be presented to me, in view of my background of training, and of my many years of study.

Quite a different strand of anti-Christian activity is involved in the so-called Higher Criticism. This theory was worked out by a great number of scholars over a long period of time. The results are not solidly established. In fact I believe that they can be quite completely demolished by careful examination. Yet they represent a great deal of study and of dealing with factual material, and are thus in quite a different category.

During the past two years these theories of the Higher Criticism, which were formerly largely confined to theological seminaries and technical books, have begun to be widely disseminated in the Sunday School literature of several of our larger denominations. Therefore they are assuming a greater importance to the layman than was previously the case....