

lives of the Patriarchs so directing him that he was able to leave out anything that was erroneous and to keep what was true and thus to write a correct record.

Perhaps that is the way it happened. Or perhaps Abraham wrote down the story of his life or had Eleazer or one of his servants write it out. Perhaps Jacob wrote it down. Perhaps these things were written down and passed on in written records and Moses had those records, so that from them he could select whatever was vital to include in the book of Genesis with the Holy Spirit leading him as he selected and keeping him from error, causing him to omit any statement which was erroneous as he recast much of it in his own language and keeping him from including ideas which were not true. There is a third possible way in which Moses got his information, and my own guess is that it is the way in which he got it. It seems to me that he got it, not from direct revelation of God, and not from passing on an oral tradition, but from written records passed down to him. We know that when Abraham was in the land of Palestine writing was much more common there than it was in the early part of this present century. We know that when Abraham came out of the land of Mesopotamia, it was almost necessary to be able to write, otherwise your life might be in jeopardy if you were falsely accused, as you could easily be, and were unable to present evidence to free yourself. Writing was very common in those days. When Abraham was led out of Mesopotamia and into Palestine by the Holy Spirit of God and told that God had great purposes for him and that God was going through him to bless all the world, would Abraham have simply let the whole thing go without ever writing it down? It seems to me extremely unlikely.

Astruc acted upon the assumption that Moses had written documents to use and I think this is highly probable. But when somebody says, Moses used written documents and we can take the book of Genesis and separate out the different written documents from which its parts were copied, I say, maybe you can, but I begin to be a bit suspicious that you are overestimating your capability.

Somebody says, "Isn't that a delicious cake?" The cake did not come out of the air. Somebody did not produce it out of his mind.