

dangerous labor serve? It only doubles the darkness he wished to enlighten.” And Voltaire also said, “Here is the fruit of the tree of knowledge of which we are so desirous of eating. Why must it be that the fruit of the tree of ignorance should be more nourishing and more easily digested?” Voltaire, who was a great skeptic and a great enemy of Christianity, ridiculed what Astruc had done, and nobody else paid any attention to it.

2) Fifty years later, a German scholar named **Eichhorn** presented the same idea and far more attention was paid to it. Eichhorn, who wrote nearly fifty years later, said that he had not taken the idea from Astruc.

a. *Arguments for Divine Names*: Eichhorn was a noted professor in the German university of Göttingen. He published an *Introduction to the Old Testament*, in which he suggested that the book of Genesis was made up of two main documents with a few small sections from other works. (At this time he only spoke of Genesis — not as yet of the Pentateuch as a whole.) He said that he could take either one of these two documents and read it straight through as a complete story.

Eichhorn said that these were the documents that Moses used in writing the Book of Genesis. Since Moses was not there when the events described in Genesis occurred, he had to have documents unless God revealed it to him directly. Up to this point we have no reason to differ with him, but when he said that he could separate out the documents that Moses used, we need to examine his claim with care. Why should we think that Moses combined documents together as he found them, rather than to think them through and then express the results in his own words? I do not say there would necessarily be anything wrong in thinking he did so, if there is sufficient evidence to prove it.

Astruc had presented his theory in a book to which hardly anyone except Voltaire paid any attention, and Voltaire had ridiculed it. Eichhorn presented a very similar idea, and said that he had not received the idea from Astruc. Eichhorn had sufficient influence as a professor and as a writer to gain wide attention for his theory. So Eichhorn is of