

C. From Eichhorn to Graf

1) *The Fragmentary Hypothesis*: Eichhorn's successor was a man named **Ilgen**. He was not particularly important, though there has been much stress recently made on him because, like Astruc, he hit on some lines which were later adopted years after his life, but not as a result of what he did. It was not taken from his writing. Ilgen was a great educator, who succeeded Eichhorn. He wrote a book which had a long title. In this book Ilgen said that the Elohim section in Genesis is actually not a unity, but has within it some parallel passages and some differences of style; so there are really two Elohim documents in Genesis. He has three main documents instead of two main documents. The division he made is very similar to the division the critics make today. (It is very interesting that Edward J. Young of Westminster Seminary in his *Introduction to the Old Testament*, gives Eichhorn eight lines and gives Ilgen an entire page.) It was Eichhorn who was really the father of the higher criticism and tremendously important in its development. Ilgen thought of something new and presented it, but nobody paid any attention to his book and it was completely forgotten until sixty years later when somebody else advanced a theory which happens to be similar to the one he had advanced. They never thought of Ilgen until within the last thirty years when people dug into the archives and found that he had created a somewhat similar theory way back then. So I would say that in a conservative book Ilgen certainly would not be worth over four or five lines and Eichhorn ought to have a page. I do not care if you do not even remember Ilgen's name, but Eichhorn is tremendously important.

The thing about Ilgen that interests me now is not whether he anticipates developments in the criticism sixty years later, but I am interested in pointing this out to you: when they claimed to find two main documents as early as 1798, a man said, "Yes, but you can divide up one of these documents into two again." In other words, the method does not stop.

Ilgen started a trend. He was merely one of many authors who should go under the head of the Fragmentary Hypothesis. There are