

three names which are usually mentioned under the Fragmentary Hypothesis. They are: Alexander Geddes, Vater, and Hartmann. These three writers took the methods by which the book of Genesis and the other parts of the Pentateuch were divided into documents and showed that you could divide each of these into other documents, and they divided it up into smaller and smaller divisions until they had many different documents, that they said had been combined together. They found *thirty-eight* different fragments which they said had been fit together to produce the Pentateuch. They said that some of these were from the time of Moses, but that the Pentateuch in its present form comes from a much later period. Geddes said the two document theory of Astruc and Eichhorn was a work of fancy. He said there were whole series of fragments, which had been combined. Well, you see, taking this method and these arguments — the second one would not help, but taking the first and particularly the third and fourth — they divide up on the basis of differences of style and differences of parallel passages into many different documents. It is conceivable to prove that two recognizable documents were combined to produce Genesis, if there was sufficient evidence. But if it was an actual fact that there were thirty-eight different documents, that there would be sufficient evidence to prove that they were different documents, and to divide it up that way, is almost impossible. So the Fragmentary Hypothesis was the documentary theory carried to a ridiculous extreme. It was carried to the point where you just could not really prove anything if there were all those different fragments and documents. How does anybody know they are different fragments or what is part of one or part of another? You can divide up any book that way. Any time that you see a different word with a similar idea you can say that it shows a different document! So the Fragmentary Hypothesis was a reduction to absurdity of the documentary hypothesis and most of the Christian world was not affected by it. In the scholarly world, some individuals accepted it, but others said, "It is fantastic. How could a great book come together in this way?"

In those days they were dividing everything up. People thought that the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* of Homer were made up of many different poems which gradually came together. In most any book about Homer, written during a long period of time, the writer would say, "I