

that all sacrifice must be performed at the one place which God will choose. According to De Wette this chapter is the real purpose of the book of Deuteronomy. He said it was placed there by the priests who wanted to have it found so as to increase their income at the temple in Jerusalem. They put a lot of good things in other parts of the book, so as to make people think it came from Moses, but, he said, we find in the book many things that do not have any relation to the time of Moses but fit exactly with the time of Josiah. He argued that the book of Deuteronomy fits the time of Josiah and does not fit the time of Moses. He pointed out that II Kings 22 tells of its being found at that time, and therefore declared that that is when the book of Deuteronomy originated. Of course you ask, was worship first concentrated in Jerusalem in the time of Josiah? In previous chapters of Kings it is said, time and time again, that such and such a man was a good king who followed the Lord in most regards, but that the high places were not taken away. That is repeatedly said in Kings of good kings of previous days. De Wette said that those high places were the other altars where the people worshiped. He said that the man who wrote Deuteronomy, or some member of that group, was doubtless the one who wrote the book of Kings, and that he criticized all these good kings for not having taken away the high places, but that these good kings, if they had known it was wrong to have worshiped in other places, would have taken them away. According to De Wette these statements about these good kings of the past are “deuteronomic statements.” He says that really nobody had thought there was any reason why they should not sacrifice in many places all over the land until these priests succeeded in getting this book accepted in the time of Josiah and that after that it was considered that the earlier kings had all been wrong.

Later on we will look at some length at the argument about Deuteronomy. We will probably leave it until rather late in the term, because it is a question more or less by itself. The main thing I want to do now is to have you have clearly in mind when this attitude toward Deuteronomy developed so that I can show how it came into relation later with a theory about Genesis and the other books. Even though we will not examine its arguments at this time, it is very important to have his claim in mind.