

someone who is called “the redactor.” But in the early 1800’s the present view had not yet been proposed. According to the Supplementary Theory, which we are now discussing, there was one complete document in Genesis and it used the name Elohim. They called it the foundation writing. This foundation writing includes Genesis 1 and all the parts of Genesis that use the word God, plus Exodus 1-6:3, and then those other parts of the Pentateuch that they considered as having the same type of style. The remaining sections were considered to have been added later or “supplemented,” so this is called the Supplementary Hypothesis.

The Fragmentary Hypothesis disappeared altogether. For fifty years practically all the followers of the higher criticism accepted the Supplementary Hypothesis. The Supplementary Hypothesis was accepted not only by the radicals but also by men like Bleek, who were evangelical but who felt that they could not answer the arguments, and that therefore this Supplementary Theory must be true. Bleek was an evangelical Christian, but he said, doubtless it is true that somebody in the time of Moses wrote the document that has the name God in it and gives the true story, and then somebody at a later time added to Genesis the material that has Jehovah.

According to this view there is good evidence of one complete document using the name of Elohim up to Exodus 6:3 and using Jehovah after that. It tells the story from the creation right on through the history of the flood, and the history of God’s chosen people right up to the time when, it says, the name of Jehovah was revealed. Thereafter, they say, it uses the name Jehovah, and it includes the laws in Leviticus and most of the material up to Deuteronomy, which they considered to be separate.

What I am trying to get across now is the idea of how the criticism progressed. In connection with it, let me merely ask a question. If Exodus 6:3 means what the critics say it means, that the name Jehovah was not known before the time of Moses, just how stupid was the man who added a great many sections (not merely one or two) in which the name Jehovah was used? I think that is a very vital thing to consider, but we will go into it later.