

world. It was like striking a match to a pile of straw and the theory came to be called the Wellhausen Theory because it was his book that received such wide attention. From then on interest in the Pentateuch was not confined to a few scholars but spread to the whole of the scholarly world. Everyone who was at all liberal in his views accepted it eagerly. Sometimes it is called the Graf-Kuenen-Wellhausen Theory, sometimes the Graf-Wellhausen Theory, but more often simply the Wellhausen Theory. From its origin in 1878 it spread throughout the scholarly world and for the next fifty years practically all the scholars, except some of the older ones, adopted it. As the older scholars died off the earlier theories disappeared, and it was said by 1900 that there was a consensus of opinion in favor of the theory that J is the first stage in the evolution and P the last stage. It is only in the last twenty years that this consensus has begun to break up, though the main essentials of the theory are still held by nearly all of the liberal scholars. In most universities in any part of the world, if anything is taught about the Bible, the main essentials of the Wellhausen Theory are presented as fact.

Wellhausen wrote his book in 1878. A brilliant young Scotchman, W. Robertson Smith, studied under him and adopted the theory. In 1881 he gave a series of lectures at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, where he was a professor. He was accused of heresy on account of these lectures and was tried by the Scotch Presbyterian Church and convicted of unbelief in the Word of God. When he was cast out of his professorship at Aberdeen, he went to England and became a professor at Cambridge University and was the editor of several editions of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. His ideas and influence spread throughout the world. In this country Professor Briggs of Union Seminary presented the same views. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America condemned him for it in 1893. When Union Seminary stood by Professor Briggs, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America ordered that no Presbyterian student attend Union Seminary. For a time Union Seminary attendance dropped, but then it recovered and exerted a large influence. Probably all the seminaries of the United Presbyterian Church now teach the