Higher Criticism.

6) *The Unity of the Theory*

The essential point of the Wellhausen Theory is its claim that the Pentateuch, if correctly arranged, shows an evolutionary progress from simple, rudimentary ideas of religion to complicated laws and advanced ideas. They say that the J document presents very primitive ideas, that the E document is slightly less primitive, that D is much more sophisticated and that P presents the most involved and complex system of all. We will look next at this alleged development.

To understand the Graf-Wellhausen Hypothesis, one must know exactly what Hupfeld did. He went back to the documentary hypothesis, but presented it in a form that was not as simple as that described by Astruc. He said that there had been two E (Elohist) documents. He said that Genesis 1 goes with the detailed laws of the priests to form one E document, but that most of the material after Genesis 20 that uses Elohim belongs to a second E document. This is called the Modified Document Theory. Though based on documents rather than fragments it was more involved than Astruc's idea. It is probable that the Documentary Hypothesis and the Supplementary Hypothesis would have disappeared without leaving any permanent effect if it had not been for the rise of the development theory. We can see how Hupfeld complicated it.

Eichhorn had said that there were *two* main documents, that could be distinguished by the use of the two names for God (though it required the recognition of other criteria after Exod. 6:3). Then, according to Hupfeld, the material using the name God must *itself* be divided into two documents, so the divine names cease to be of much help after Exodus 3. According to Eichhorn's view there was a complete narrative, the E document, and another not quite so complete, the J Document. Then they gave up the idea that J was complete and said that it was just a series of supplements of the E document that had been added. When Hupfeld declared that this E document, which had been considered so complete, had itself to be