

idea was absolutely unknown before the time of Josiah. It is rather strong to say it was absolutely unknown. It is easy to prove that it was not observed, but that does not prove that the law did not exist.

We have been looking at the alleged development within documents, and have seen that there are many features about which the claim is made that there is a development among the documents, but that, in most cases, where the documents are carefully examined, the alleged development either disappears or it seems to be easily explainable by the situation, if we take the Bible as it stands. The way the critical position is stated, they give you the impression that you find a primitive situation in J, one slightly more advanced in E, and then in D a great step forward in spirituality and complexity, followed by another step forward in P. Actually there are few cases, if any, in which they can show four steps that are arranged this way in a logical progression. In practically every case where there is any change of importance, it is only between two of the documents; it is not between four of them, or as a rule, even in three. Very often the alleged changes prove to be the result of a misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the text.

As the scripture stands the account claims to be first a presentation of the brief covenant that God makes with the people, stressing important rules of permanent validity, for their lives, but including among them certain particular points that would be vital in their immediate life in the wilderness. This is followed by a presentation of a long set of laws, intended not for all the people to be familiar with in every detail, but for the priests to have available for consultation when the need arose. It is natural that most of the details of the system of worship are included in this set. Then there is the book of Deuteronomy, which is an exhortation to the people, at the end of the wilderness journey, to obey the law, and a repetition of those laws which are vital for all the people to keep in mind. Certain changes are made in view of the fact that they are about to enter Canaan. This is the system as it stands in the Bible. Naturally there are changes among these three laws, because of the different purposes. Thus something may be given in brief terms in the Law of the Covenant and its details explained more fully in the laws for the priests. Then in Deuteronomy there is naturally much that is between the two: that is