

I knew Dr. Alders was a thorough Bible believer. I knew he was in half of that book takes up the higher criticism and gives evidence against it and does an excellent example of handling them. Prof. Alders was impressed with some arguments against Mosaic authorship which do not particularly impress me. I do not see why Moses could not have written every word in the Pentateuch. At the same time I recognize Prof. Alders is right -- that it does not say anywhere in Gen. that Moses wrote Genesis. It does not say in any one of the five books of the Pent. that Moses wrote this book but it does say in various places in Deut. that Moses said these words. It says God said to Moses write down the names of the places where the children of Israel went. There are places where Jesus Christ referred to in the Pent. as what Moses said. So I felt certain Prof. Alders would feel as I do that at least a great part of it is the very words of Moses, all of it is true, every word is inspired by the Holy Spirit, every word is free from error. Even if Moses wrote it all down even under inspiration of the Holy Spirit predicting his own death, or whether Moses wrote the great bulk of it and someone else equally inspired of the Holy Spirit put these things together and added other sections which were true and God had kept from error and put it in the condition we have it today under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, either of the two, the fact is it is true. It is inspired of God.

After all, who wrote Joshua? Nobody knows. Who wrote Judges? Nobody knows. Who wrote Ruth? Nobody knows. Who wrote 1 Sam.? Nobody knows. Certainly Samuel didn't because he died in the middle of it. There's a whole half of it telling of events after his death. Who wrote 2 Sam.? It doesn't start until years after Samuel died. Who wrote 1 Kings? II Kings? I Chron. II Chron. Nobody knows. God has not told us. But this we know. The Holy Spirit directed whoever wrote it and he wrote it so it is true and free from error. I think it is unfortunate that Christians should take certain shibboleths like say "Mosaic Authorship, that's the important thing." The important thing is not who wrote it. The important thing is that it is true! It came from God and is free from error. I see no reason Moses may not have written every bit of it, but it nowhere says anywhere in the Bible and therefore I think it's foolish to take a stand for something which the Bible does not reveal. Wherever it says Moses wrote this or that, or the other thing of course I believe he wrote that. Or wherever the NT refers to what is written by him. I was glad they did not catch me off guard on this question. I knew Dr. Alders' attitude, I'd read his book c. 20 yrs. ago, but knowing his attitude and with the book in my hand I simply glanced over two or so pages forward and so when the lawyer said what do you think of that statement of Dr. Alders? I said, I think the statement should be interpreted in relationship to the statement he makes three pages later. Then I read this statement of Alders: I have no doubt that the overwhelming material of the books of Ex., Lev., Num., and Deut. is exactly as it came from the hand of Moses. That pretty well took the wind out of their sails on that particular tact.

But a full day of being approached from this angle, and from this angle, and from this angle, on questions that you might enjoy seeing if you had time to work over them and think of them, but you just had to think instantly and try to get the answer.