## 4/20/74

The Dept. of Mathematics where she thought it would not at least hurt the children - or young folks rather (college). That is typical of the changes that have taken place, and nothing has been more influential in these changes than the growth of the higher criticism.

Forty years ago many Christians were saying, Welhausen has been disproven; the higher criticism is on its way out; people no longer believe in it. In fact many unbelieving scholars were making statements like that a few years ago. I was much interested to see this book Mosas and the Law in a Century of Criticism since Graf, by R. G. Thompson. A book which shows a survey of a tremendous number of recent writings and quite a knowledgeable development in the higher criticism through the years. He shows Graf and Wellhausen and these others developed these theories that you had four great documents--the J document, the E document and then combined, and then the D document that was united with them, and then the P document which is the s very outline of Genesis written far later on and utterly undependable. And then united with them into the Pentateuch as we have it today. Forty years ago they were saying this is largly given up! Thompson tells how 40 years ago people were questioning that and suggesting that each of these documents was in turn made up of a number o others and they had just come about by oral accretion, etc., and it looked as if the thing was about to fall. He calls that the older criticism. Now, he says, the newer criticism which we can stand upon is different. When he describes the newer criticism it is exactly the same thing that Welhausen taught 100 years ago ---- four great documents united in this way, all

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