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A Memorandum:

Discussion of Approach of Book on Pentateuch

It impresses me at present that the best procedure would be to write a book that would be limited to one specific objective, namely, to prove that the higher critical approach that divides Genesis and the rest of the Pentateuch into documents such as J, E and P, is not valid. It seems to me that it would be wise to try to avoid in this particular book discussion as to the divine origin of the Bible, as to its historical accuracy, as to its Mosaic authorship, or as to many other vital facts. The purpose of the book would be to give a very thorough, scholarly discussion of the alleged evidence for the existence of these documents at some time in the past, and their combination as held by the Wellhausen theory, and as presented in a number of scholarly or semi-scholarly books, and in a great many books of a popular nature in recent years. These theories are now being widely publicized, although the younger scholars are tending to question many aspects of them, and a large group of critical scholars in Scandinavia rejects them almost entirely. To write a book that would completely demolish this whole basis of approach would impress me as a very excellent service.

After the book has been published it would be easy to write a number of pamphlets, taking up a number of arguments, and dealing strongly with them, and pointing out the inference as to the dependability and truthfulness of the Word of God. These booklets could refer, for full evidence on particular points, to the complete book. Thus the enemies of the Gospel would be deprived of their ability to pick out a sentence or a statement and say that here was an unsupported statement without evidence, and that this was typical of the method. The book should contain full evidence on all points discussed, and then the pamphlets should contain frequent references to the book.

It is not of course my thought that the book would be ~~actually~~ <sup>actually</sup> able to convince the critical leaders. However, if it could be on a sufficiently scholarly level