

OUTLINE FOR BOOK ON PENTATEUCHAL CRITICISM

[Preface]

I. Importance of the Subject

Types of reasons

Reasons for interest of each

Recent wide dissemination of J, E, D, P theory

Extreme dogmatism with which it is presented

Effect on Christian faith

Comparison of Marco Polo and Sir John Mandeville

II. Exactly What the Theory is

Statement of view as held by most of its adherents

Great complexity of the view

Nothing comparable in non-Biblical literature

III. The Theory actually a Relic from the Attitudes of a By-gone Era of Thought

A. Tendencies of the 19th century, important in formation and acceptance of theory, but now generally discarded except in Biblical studies.

B. Wellhausen's views preserved mainly unchanged by present-day scholars

C. Discussion of specific tendencies

1. Extreme skepticism about ancient facts and writings

Wolf and his followers

Attitude toward Troy and Mycenae

Attacks on Cicero's orations

Allegro and the Gospels

Wellhausen on unhistorical nature of Moses, Abraham, etc.

Far-reaching change as a result of archaeology

Schliemann at Troy

Egypt and Mesopotamia

Old Testament history