

According to this theory the so-called J document was written many centuries after the events that it describes. A century or so later another document, more or less parallel to the J document was written. After each had circulated separately for a time, someone combined them, inserting various portions of the newer E document into the J document at appropriate places. More centuries passed, and then the D document was composed, purporting to contain Moses' farewell addresses. Eventually this was inserted into the latter part of the combined JE document. About the time of the exile a group of priests composed still another document, the so-called P document, paralleling much of the ground already covered by the J and E documents. Eventually this was cut into large and small sections, between which similar sections of the other documents were inserted. As a result, it is said <sup>that</sup> the Pentateuch as we know it today ~~is~~ is composed of intertwined parts of all these documents, so that we often read a section of one document, followed by a section of another, then, perhaps, a verse or two of the first, then two or three verses of the second, then perhaps half a verse of the first again, then a portion of the third, then more of the second, and so on in a complicated ~~mosaic~~ patchwork arrangement. According to many critics the literary mosaic thus produced included not only the books we know today as Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, but also the book of Joshua. ~~Such~~ Such is the theory that is held and propagated today in almost the