

Thompson, Jas., Westfall and Bernard J. Holm, A History of Historical Writing (The Macmillan Co.: New York) 1942 Vol. II, The 18th and 19th Centuries

See chapters LXI, pp. 575-591 "Biblical and Jewish History"

p. 577 In 1806 De Wette fixed the date of the first actual publication of Deuteronomy, on the basis of II Kings xxii.23. His opinion that the entire Pentateuch is the result of gradual development is the heart and core of the accepted critical view today. Here was a finished canon, with a minutely elaborated cult and code; clearly this religion had not sprung into final existence all at once. It was the task of the nineteenth century to explain its origin, to discover the history of the growth of the Jewish religion.

p. 582 The uninformed who hear an occasional pronouncement that the views of Wellhausen are outmoded believe this/^{the}knell of the passing of higher criticism, which has succeeded in "disintegrating the disintegrators." Such a view is a misconception. The thesis of Wellhausen and the critical view of the Hexateuch are not synonymous, nor need the latter fall if the first be denied. Scholars may accept the source-analysis of higher criticism, without agreeing on the subsequent historical reconstruction on the basis of these sources.

Actually, Wellhausen worked at both tasks, making one serve the other.

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