

I Important argument in the development of the documentary theory but now not nearly so prominent.

A. The completeness of the various documents is still assumed

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B. The argument as originally stated by Astruc, Eichhorn, Graf-Wellhausen

Eichhorn and Astruc divided Genesis mainly into two documents. Each of these was said to give a complete story. Each is able to stand alone and does not need the other. It was claimed that the First Elohist was a complete account from creation right on through the conquest in the book of Joshua. The J document was almost as complete but not quite, and it must have been added to the First Elohist.

The supplementary theory came along and held to but one document, the foundation writing or Elohist, which was supplemented by the Jehovist who wrote at a later time.

The Graf-Wellhausen theory swung back to the idea of multi-documents. It divided up the First Elohist and took the greater part of the material from Genesis 20 on and made it into a Second Elohist. The remainder of what had been First Elohist was called P. Thus the continuity was destroyed and it was not the most complete by any means, although the attempt was made to preserve it by attributing isolated verses or phrases to P. J which previously had been questioned as being a complete continuous document now took the field as being the most complete document we have, even though it was no more complete than it was before the division of the First Elohist. Both P and E are far less complete.

II There are great gaps in the continuity of all three documents

P begins with the account of creation in Genesis 1.1-2.4a. It tells the story of creation rather fully but it does not give much detail concerning the creation of man. Then it jumps to chapter 5 which is all given to P with the exception of verse 29 which is given to J. In Genesis 1.1-2.4a P described the