

Kaufmann, Yehezkel, The Religion of Israel, From Its Beginning to the Babylonian Exile (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press) 1960. Reviewed by David Noel Freedman in JBL, June, 1962, pp. 185-190

p. 186 While Wellhausen's reconstruction of the history of Israelite religion has proved untenable, his evolutionary approach has survived. While there has been widespread dissatisfaction with the details of the documentary hypothesis, the classic pattern, JEDP, for the sources of the Pentateuch is still widely accepted. . . . In view of the complexity of the material in each source, and the apparent incorporation of older and newer elements, a clear decision as to priority may never be reached. It is the present view of the reviewer that D and P are roughly parallel and contemporary sources, and that direct dependence of either upon the other cannot be demonstrated. . . .

p. 190 In sum, this book is indispensable reading. Kaufmann has reopened questions long since considered closed, and has done so in a way to command attention and respect.

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