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Shotwell, James T., The Story of Ancient History (Columbia University Press, N. Y.) 1939

re Higher criticism

p. 109 Higher criticism, viewing the texts historically, at last reveals their setting in their own time and place, and presents them as a national product instead of a record of creation in the words of the Creator. For the former it is adequate; for the latter no doctrinal apologies could save it from the shafts of ridicule.

The most important service, however, which higher criticism has rendered the Old Testament, is that it has allowed us to distinguish between the validity of different parts, to detect the naive folk tale in which Jahveh and the patriarchs meet at old hill-sanctuaries and the late priestly narrative reconstructing the whole in terms of the temple at Jerusalem. The finer passages are no longer involved in the fate of the rest. It is therefore possible to appreciate the genuine achievements of the chief historians of Israel for the first time.²

Footnote 2. The analysis of the text which is given here was based upon a survey of biblical criticism at it stood at the time these chapters were written. While it is believed that recent discoveries have not shaken the conclusions here stated, it may be said that, in general, they have tended to give support to the more conservative historical outlook as over against conclusions drawn solely from internal evidence.

p. 163 The Homeric poems were to the Greeks - so far as history goes - almost what the Old Testament was to the Jews. Their authority was fastened upon the Greek mind down to the era of its full intellectual development. The early Christian Fathers prove that the narrative of Moses was prior to that of the Greeks. It is a singular parallel that modern scholarship developed/ p. 164 the higher criticism of Homer and Moses side by side⁶ and, applying with impartial judgment the same tests to both, has revealed in each case the same art of composite authorship and the gradual formation of canon.

Footnote 6. Especially through the influence of F. A. Wolf upon German's scholarship at the end of the eighteenth century.