

Situation out of which it arose:

Regarding the P story, Skinner says, "It has, indeed, often been asserted that this particular passage is obviously the composition 'at one heat' of a single writer; but that is improbably. If the cosmogony rests ultimately on a Babylonian model, it "must have passed through a long period of naturalisation in Israel, and of gradual assimilation to the spirit of Israel's religion before it could have reached its present form" (Dri. Gen. 31). All, therefore, that is necessarily implied in what has just been said is that the later stages of that process must have taken place under the auspices of the school of P, and that its work has entered very deeply into the substance of the composition. Bf the earlier stages we can say little except that traces of them remain in those elements which do not agree with the ruling ideas of the last editors. (p.11 0)