

assumes would be artificial and rather unlikely to have occurred. Furthermore, its foundation in Biblical statements is extremely weak. Moreover, the use of varying names in different connections is not at all unusual, and can be easily explained on other grounds than that of a patchwork origin.

9. The claim that there is constant duplication of material in the various alleged sources is grossly exaggerated. Some of these so-called duplicates are really different events that are somewhat similar, but actually no more so than is often the case in ordinary life, as can be demonstrated fairly easily. In other cases an alleged repetition is merely a summary given at the beginning or end of an account, a helpful recapitulation, or a literary device to make an account more vivid. Most of the alleged repetitions or duplications, if examined without prejudice, can be shown to have a natural purpose in the narrative.

10. Most of the alleged contradictions between the so-called sources disappear on careful examination. Thus it is alleged that the J and P documents exhibit Rebecca as influenced by different motives in suggesting Jacob's departure from Canaan, the motive being in one case to enable him to escape his brother's anger, and in the other case to induce him to procure a wife agreeable to his parents' wishes. Actually there is no contradiction whatever in supposing that Rebecca was influenced by both motives, and that, in dealing with the two men whom she wishes to influence, she used in each case the argument that she knew would appeal to him, rather than the one that would be apt to antagonize him.

11. These facts indicate the existence of logical reasons for the phenomena in the Pentateuch, all of them consistent with the idea of a unified authorship, and not requiring the adoption of an ungrounded theory that is a survival from the 19th century, and that is quite inconsistent with present methods of literary study.

12. The overwhelming majority of people who accept the Multidocumentary Theory, including most of those who teach it, do so because of confidence in the men by whom it is advanced, rather than on the basis of any thorough investigation. The interests of Truth demand that the facts be examined objectively and without prejudice. When this is done it becomes apparent that the Theory lacks both factual evidence and sound logical basis.

In these statements I have briefly summarized a portion of the results of many years of study of the documentary theories. The whole subject may impress many of you as very dry and uninteresting. Yet I have no hesitation in predicting that the sons of many of you will lose their Christian faith through the insidious presentation of these very the-