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A RESPONSE TO "HISTORICAL GRAMMATICAL PROBLEMS" BY A
BRUCE WALTKE

INTRODUCTION
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After being asked to respond to a paper on "Historical Grammatical Problems" I was surprised to find that very few of its 20 sections deal with either grammar or history. Perhaps the content of the paper could be better represented by such a title as "Problems confronting those who attempt grammatico-historical interpretation of the Bible."

Much of the paper deals with matters of great importance, many of them subjects to which I have devoted years of research and thought. My views regarding some of them differ substantially from those in the paper to which I am responding. I trust that this will not be considered as in any way a reflection against the author personally.

I read the paper by Dr. Waltke with great interest. There are many statements in it with which I wholeheartedly agree. There are others with which I feel a strong disagreement. One matter is so basic that I would like to respond to it at length before dealing with the sections of the paper in order. I refer to material on pages 22-25 and elsewhere that speaks approvingly of the division of Genesis 1-2 into documents that it designates ^{as} P and J, and thus endorses the foundation stone of what has been called the Higher Criticism, the Graf-Kuenen-Wellhausen theory, and, more recently, "Orthodox Literary Criticism of the Pentateuch." (It should be noted that in this connection "orthodox" does not mean "in line with generally accepted Christian ideas" but "in line with the views that were held by most biblical critics between 1880 and 1920.")

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