

8.

In 1963 Robert Gordis wrote: "We may note the growing disfavor in which the atomization of ancient literary documents is viewed by contemporary scholarship. Increasingly, the study of ancient literature, like that of the Homeric epics, has been focusing attention on the unity and meaning of the whole work rather than upon the disparity of the constituent elements. ^{That the} ~~The~~ indiscriminate (and even accidental) lumping together of scattered literary fragments by an obtuse redactor, who often did not understand the material he was working with, could produce a masterpiece--that naive faith of 19th century literary critics is no longer widely held today." ⁷

Professor H. Gardner of Oxford, has said: "The modern scholar or critic concentrates in the first place on making what he can of his text as it has come down to him. There has been a strong reaction against the study of even extant and known sources, much more against the discussion of hypothetical ones...The importance of the single author and the single work dominates literary studies, as can be seen if the plan and treatment of the new Oxford History of English Literature, now in progress, is compared with that of the old Cambridge History." ⁸

My fourth reason for wishing that no trace of the method so generally abandoned in literary studies were retained among believers in biblical authority is the fact that source-hunting, as now practiced in Bible departments, no longer can be said to possess what was formerly its most effective argument, the claim that it was a