

# Problems in Composition: The Authorship of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible)

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Our question is, "Why is there any doubt about the authorship of the Pentateuch in view of the clear biblical statements that Moses wrote it?" We have asked if the doubts are matters of perversity, a clever plan of Satan, or a lack of biblical insight. Perhaps elements of all of these are in the background, but certainly no one of them explains all the confusion brought to the Bible by "thinking" critics. When we analyze the matter, we see that behind the idea of developmentalists are these items:

1. Honest questions
2. Skepticism of all professed supernaturalism
3. Resentment of authority

Those who study the topic may answer the first, can do little for the second, and find that the third is the classic attitude of all who oppose God.

Let us assume that someone has earnest questions about the composition of the Pentateuch. He has always been taught that Moses wrote it, but now he sees the different names for God and wonders if there are possibly two sources: one of which is called "Jehovah"; and the other, "Elohim." This man is an honest questioner. Here are the facts he should consider:

1. In the Old Testament two names are commonly used for the same person. Jacob has his name changed to Israel; but throughout the Old Testament he is referred to by one or the other, and sometimes in proximate context