

The 19th century following saw a rush of material in this pattern. The striking factor was that the rationalistic thought moved within the church rather than without it. Previously most of those who had spoken against the genuine character of the Bible had been agnostics, skeptics, etc., in the philosophic community external to the Christian witness. But in this age the major spokesmen are theologians, text historians, etc. To a large extent they are ecclesiastically oriented thinkers. As this movement grew there also emerged a corresponding school of conserving thinkers. This latter group continued to extol the Bible for what it claimed to be while the former group found serious fault with this assertion.

Today we have a developed situation out of this background that allows the strongest biblical critics to operate within the church...and thereby to be the greatest deterrents to the propagation of truth. Much of the religious literature of our generation is simply an attack on the integrity of the Bible and this has caused a weakening chasm in the church. Fundamentalists are generally regarded as not-scholarly since they merely repeat the time honored propositions of the older church and newer forms of criticism press for attention in the pursuit of a greater in-depth study of the Bible. Conservative reactionism has resulted in very assertive congregations, schools, and literature but has occasionally missed the forest for the trees. The vast majority of theologically inclined minds seem intent on ending the authority of the Bible, not enhancing it.

2. The Destructive Higher Critical Theory of the Canon.

As approximated in the thinking of this teacher, the theory is stated like this..and the composition is mine considering a lot of sources:

The Old Testament originated as a codified body in the religious aspirations of the Jews. As the religion developed from a simple henotheism to a complex monotheism, the literature that defined it took on universal application. Then as the national star dimmed, the spiritual star was allowed to shine brighter. When the nation could not rule, it was concluded that its God was the one ruling. The words regarding Him and His covenants became normative for religious truth. So the Old Testament grew with the nationalistic feelings of Israel, and the necessary modification of same also developed.