

indicate the lack of a definitive style and thus the greater the number of variants, the weaker the concept of a definitive form or style. If all the stylistic differences were regarded as those of Moses as he approached certain types of material, the whole thing would be much easier. Note that differing materials do often necessitate different styles..different times and occasions may also promote different styles...but style, unless gramatically and syntactically detectable, is not nearly so easy to manage and differentiate as is popularly suggested.

(5) Summary

While the arguments for partition make a clever theoretical approach that easily appeals to the highly imaginative, they depend on a number of artificial devices for their development. They do solve some internal problems in understanding, as in Genesis 36:31, but it is doubtful if what is suggested is a real problem solving solution. There is so much speculation and rationalizing of apparent matters stated otherwise that we wonder how the wide acceptance was attained in a world inclined to empiricism and doubt.

A few years ago, Dr. MacRae pursued an interesting study on the multiple authorship arguments as based on the partitioning of other literature in this form of literary criticism and discovered that this argument had been widely abandoned in general literary circles. A copy of his material is on reserve (I hope) and you may peruse it.

b. Examination of the Arguments for Development

(1) Explanation

Everything develops but that is not the intent or point of the critical theory. The question hinges as to whether Israel's faith is brought to pass by the societal movements of the nation or is given by God. The developmental hypothesis is used to argue for the former and against the latter.

The argument is somehow between what might be called progressive revelation and humanistic development. If the Pentateuch is seen as a unit of truth, given by Moses under the direction of