

Exodus 21:2-6 (J-E)

Deuteronomy 15:12-18 (D)

Leviticus 25:39-55

You will discover these are not all discussing the same thing to the same extent and that accounts for much of the supposed growth of the idea. The amount of time required for the change from Exodus to Leviticus is significant in the critical thinking.

(4) Some concluding notes on the developmental hypothesis

(a) It requires the documents. Without allowing a partitioning of the mss, it would be an impossible idea. To allow it to then strengthen the partitioning is a class example of making the facts fit the ideas. When the documentary hypothesis is disallowed there is no developmental hypothesis.

(b) It assumes the reality of an evolutionary progress in human history.

(c) It deletes the role of revelation and it is the creator of faith and whatever goes with it.

(d) It violates the true concept of progress--in a somewhat philosophical vein--for progress is often not just moving from simple to complex...sometimes the more elaborate is stated early and gives force to the simple...like DaVinci's flying machine.

To disprove the developmental hypothesis is almost impossible as it allows of no criteria whereby it may be judged by itself. From an evangelical viewpoint it is simply not the truth as it is not the way in which the Bible reveals itself. But there is no way to test its propositions. They are assertions and each is self-authenticating. There is one advantage to the whole thing...and I say it with some emotion...it makes the Bible your servant, not your guide...it makes God your Creation, not your Lord.