

(6) Beyond the Sphere of Moses

The early Genesis accounts and the Death sequence of Dt. 34 are the two major items. On the first we know that some source material was needed. Moses does not claim to have seen it himself.. therefore either a directed revelatory source was used or some material provided by the history of the people. On the second...it may well be an addition to close the book. Remember we do not think he wrote every word...but we think he is the responsible issuing authority for the whole.

(7) Some Observations

First, it is certainly possible that, there could be some non-Mosaic elements in the Pentateuch. The total amount would seem to be slight...on the mere force of suggested materials. The whole idea seems unproved but the possibility should not be dismissed. Sometimes our zeal for a particular aspect of truth may actually conceal the heart of the matter.

Second, the difficult interpretative sections in the work are probably best explained in the light of the great diversity of material and experiences which are reflected in the background of the writing. The very nature of material used in the writing of the work is the sort that allows for individualistic styling and hence an apparent alteration of style and form. You will remember that the basic types of material come in the line of:

--eye witness accounts

--direct revelation (immediately from God)

--historical materials including narrative given by persons in actual discussion. Note the Balaam and Moses accounts in Numbers 22-24 for one of these.

Third, it should be apparent that the modern Bible student should seek to be something of a master of the Pentateuch in content and bearing on the rest of Scripture. This course will not give it to him, however, and his own energy and personal study are much needed.

At this point our Special Introductory notes on the Pentateuch end and we move on into the rest of the Old Testament.