

D. The Authorship of the Pentateuch

1. Why is this subject important?

- a. The integrity of Scripture
- b. The accuracy of history
- c. The reliability of Biblical tradition

In a very crude analysis, if one is not able to trust the Bible in open and expressive passages, there is reason to doubt that one should trust it at all.

2. The argument for Mosaic authorship

The argument is not that Moses personally wrote every word but that he is the authority behind the writing..that the Pentateuch is Mosaic in its origination.

a. Pentateuchal statements:

- Exodus 24:4 (P)
- Deuteronomy 31:9 (D)
- Exodus 17:14 (E)
- Numbers 33:2 (P)

The capital letters refer to documents supposedly combined in the Pentateuch...not all critics agree on the exact division of material so there is some approximation in this. But all major parts of the Pentateuch are touched on with this form except Genesis.

b. Further Old Testament witness:

- 1 Kings 2;3
- 2 Chronicles 34:14
- Nehemiah 8:1-8

It is sometimes said that Moses is mentioned in these references as Webster is mentioned in connexion with the dictionary. But these references must be seen in concordance with those already mentioned in the Pentateuch.