

In the mind of Wellhausen much of the ideology of the Pentateuch was created late to interpret the existing ideas of the various cults back into antiquity in the hope of giving them credence.

3. Form Criticism...and oral tradition: Accepting documents as the norm, the ideas in this camp sought to go behind the basic expression and locate the oral tradition that had probably circulated for centuries. Key spokesman was Herman Gunkel and his more modern up-dated, G. VonRad. In a very over-simplified way we may note that the school looks for what is behind expressions and seeks to classify the literature by genre. The Genesis narratives are legend, not history, but legend is only a particular form of poetry. The mark of legend is incredibility but this does not mean there is not a fabric of accuracy behind the legend...hence the search for the oral tradition and the insistence that literature be studied according to form.

4. A fuller treatment would include the Ritual and Cult understanding as well as the concepts in the Divine Kingship ideas. But essentially all do the same thing: remove the Pentateuch from the time of Moses and from the authority of divine inspiration, re-make it as a human product with only suggestive spiritual overtones, and see it as a naturalistic result of the societal frustrations of Israel.

In addition to the earlier ideas presented with regard for the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, I stress the following:

--the unity of the work

--the integration of the work in the rest of Scripture.

Neither of these would need Moses...any single issuing authority would do as well, I suppose, but they argue for a oneness to the whole. It is interesting how computer studies of Pentateuchal vocabulary, style, etc., have all argued in this direction although you will remember that our faith is not built on the works and findings of computers.

Exegesis is the key to understanding most of the problems that are alleged in the Pentateuch. When exegesis is combined with honest humility a force of competency is developed that is very strong indeed.

#### Interpretive concepts in the Pentateuch

Hermeneutically we are interested in..

the eternal vs. the temporal  
the spiritual vs. the physical  
the ubiquitous vs. the local  
the omnipersonal vs. the individual

#### The use of the Pentateuch

It is the basis for the revivals in the Old Testament, the fundamental teachings of the character of God and His dealings, the means of rebuke of kings and false worship, and the legal body of truth on which the teachings of Jesus are given. Pretty important stuff..and that is one of the many reasons why liberals, etc., are anxious to nullify its grip in the Scripture.