

Introduction to Genesis

Authorship:

Moses or J.E.P.D. also known as the Documentary Hypothesis

and/or Wellhausen Hypothesis after Julius Wellhausen an 18th century non believer who helped invent or more fully developed the theory that: The first 5 books of the Bible known as the books of Moses, the Pentateuch or the Torah were not written by Moses but rather by 4 sources and they were put together by redactors. The theory goes as follows:

J. The Yahwist or Jahwist (English Y is J in German) because of the use of YHWH when referring to God. Wellhausen theorized this was written 950 BC in Southern Kingdom Judah.

E. Elohist because of the use of Eloheim for God. Wellhausen theorized this was written about 850 BC in the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

P. Priestly writer. Wellhausen theorized this was written between 400 & 500 BC by Aaronic Priests in exile in Babylon.

D. Deuteronomist writer. Wellhausen theorized this was written about 600 BC in Jerusalem during a period of religious reform.

Wellhausen began all this doubt and non belief by asking how could Moses have written of his own death? Cf: Deuteronomy 34:5-12. Well, the answer is really simple as the noose on your face Joshua finished it for him. We see in Joshua 1: 1-9 the Law was one scroll and Joshua had it in his possession. Don't be fooled by the people who late date the Bible. The Author of Joshua says he was there when those events happened by his use of the word we in Joshua 5:1. So even if Joshua used a scribe, the scribe says he was there and therefore an eye ball witness to the events he is writing.

The use of the different words: YHWH and Eloheim for God is easy to understand. Look at Exodus 6:1-3. So when you see the different words for God in the book of Genesis for example that are translated Lord

(YHWH) Moses is being told this by the Lord. When God (Eloheim) is used Moses is simply being true to his ancient written source. When Lord (YHWH) God (Eloheim) – the term translated into english as Lord God is used Moses is using an ancient written source that the Lord (YHWH) during Moses day and time is adding additional information to the new account Moses is writing. Forget not that the Lord both knew and spoke to Moses face to face cf: Exodus 33:11 & Deuteronomy 34:10 whatever that means, it was different than all other prophets until the Christ came cf: Deuteronomy 18:15ff

The use of different words, terms and language in Leviticus could be understood as Aaron being the scribe after all Aaron was the High Priest you would expect him to be involved in the Priestly writings. Also, Moses had a lot to do and was over 80 years old.

The same can be said for Deuteronomy, Moses was 120 years old and we should expect him to have Joshua or a scribe write what he dictated. Deuteronomy is a speech people, spoken orally.

The age old Hebrew & Christian belief that Moses guided by the Spirit of God composed Genesis using sources and documents available in his day is sound.

Genesis is a Compound Book Composed by Moses of 11 Books

Book 1 The Creation hymn, Gen. 1:1-2:3;

Book 2 The Generations of Heaven & Earth Gen 2:4-4:26;

Book 3 The Generations of Adam Gen. 5:1 to 6-8:

Book 4 The Generations of Noah Gen. 6:9-9:29;

Book 5 The Generations of the sons of Noah Gen. 10:1-11:9;

Book 6 The Generations of Shem Gen. 11:10-11:26;

Book 7 The Generations of Terah Gen. 11:27-25:11;

Book 8 The Generations of Ishmael Gen. 25:12-25:18;

Book 9 The Generations of Isaac Gen. 25:19-35:29;

Book 10 The Generations of Esau Gen. 36:1-36:43 &

Book 11 The Generations of Jacob Gen. 37:1-2 to 50:26