

# Did Moses Write the Pentateuch?

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## **I. Development of the Documentary Hypothesis**

- A. Dutch philosopher Benedict Spinoza questioned the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch.
- B. French physician Jean Astruc developed the hypothesis.
- C. Karl Graf developed the theory in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- D. Julius Wellhausen brought this theory into European and American academics.

## **II. Overview of the Documentary Hypothesis**

- A. This view was influenced by Darwin's theory
- B. Wellhausen school believed the OT (Prior to 2 Kings) was put together between 850 – 750 BCE.
- C. These were finally written down in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century.
  - 1. J – Yahwist
  - 2. E – Elohist
  - 3. P – Priestly School
  - 4. D – Deuterist Law show
- D. Goals of the Scribes
  - 1. They sought to establish the centrality of Israel's government.
  - 2. They sought to centralize the worship in Jerusalem around the Temple.

## **III. The Importance of the Issue**

- A. Documentary Hypothesis challenges the credibility of the Old Testament and the truth of Christianity.

- B. Jesus would be in error.

#### **IV. Wellhausen Arguments for a later date**

- A. Phonetic alphabet did not exist till the 10<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- B. Old Testament stories are not historical
- C. Biblical Incongruities

#### **V. Evaluation of the Documentary Hypothesis**

- A. Scripture affirms Mosaic Authorship of the Pentateuch
- B. There is no evidence of the Priestly Schools of JEPD
- C. There is no agreement as to which sections belong to which school.
- D. No JEPD Documents ever found
- E. Strong Internal Evidence of Middle Bronze Age authorship.
- F. Built on the premise phonetic alphabet is not invented till 10<sup>th</sup> century BCE
  - 1. Archaeology shows alphabet existed as early at 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century BCE
  - 2. Ebla Tablets (2500 – 2200 BCE)
  - 3. Canaanite alphabet known as proto Canaanite develops in Middle Bronze Age (1800-1600 BCE)

4. Code of Hammurabi (1750 BCE)
5. Nuzi Tablets (15<sup>th</sup> century BCE)
6. Ras Shamra Tablets (1400 BCE)

## **VI. Evidence for Mosaic Authorship**

- A. Bible Affirms Mosaic Authorship
  1. Old Testament affirms Mosaic Authorship
    - a) Ex. 17:14, 24:4-7, 34:27, Numbers 33:1-2, Deut. 21:9-11
    - b) 1 Kings 2:3, 2 Kings 14:6.
    - c) Ezra 6:18, Neh. 13:1, Dan. 9:11-13, Malachi 4:4
  2. New Testament - John 5:46-7, 7:19, Acts 3:22, Rom. 10:5
- B. Internal Evidence Supports Mosaic Authorship
  1. Author demonstrates knowledge of geography of the ME during the Bronze Age.
  2. Author demonstrates knowledge of Bronze Age Culture
  3. Author demonstrates knowledge of Egyptian culture
- C. Answering Discrepancies
  1. Archaeological Discrepancies
  2. Biblical passages
    - a) Gen 36:31, "...before there reigned any kings in Israel."
    - b) Exodus 1:11 "...cities of Pithom and Rameses."
    - c) Deuteronomy 34