

stages of their ideas, there would be no harm in them, but they are vital because historically they are the beginning of the whole movement.

B. Early Documentary Theory: Astruc and Eichhorn

1) The name of **Jean Astruc** is very widely known. Any book on the higher criticism will mention it. Eichhorn is a man who is much less known at least among conservatives in general, but Eichhorn is far more important than Astruc in the whole matter. Astruc happened to be first, but Eichhorn had a hundred times the influence that Astruc ever had. If Eichhorn had not come, Astruc would have been completely forgotten. They are the two men who are vital here.

Jean Astruc was born in 1684. That is not particularly important. What is important is the date when his book was written. That is the date I wish everyone to remember! 1753 (he was nearly 70 at the time.) Astruc was a Frenchman whose father had been a Protestant pastor. When the severe persecution against the Protestants began, Astruc's father had left the Protestant church and had become a Romanist. The son was a physician and a lecturer on medicine. The great work of his life was a book on venereal disease which became a standard work. Perhaps it was because Astruc wrote a book on venereal disease that many books against the higher criticism refer to him as a French physician of profligate life. I have seen no evidence that he was a man of profligate life beyond other Frenchmen, aside from the fact that he wrote a book on venereal disease. I do not know on what this statement is based but I find it in practically every conservative book that deals with the higher criticism, which, they say, began with a book by Astruc, a French physician of profligate life. There is no evidence that I know of that his life was any more profligate than the lives of others in Paris at the time, and even if it was I do not think that that would necessarily prove the ideas in his book were wrong. Besides, the ideas that he presented were not necessarily harmful. We do not advance the opposition to the higher criticism by attempting to attack the character of Astruc.

Astruc was much interested in the Pentateuch. He noticed