

Moses giving us the history of events before his time by taking two original sources and combining them together, but to say that Moses took two different sources and put them together, giving the history of what he saw and experienced, in the rest of the Pentateuch is a different matter. Why on earth would he do that? He was right there and saw it all. Then, if your parallel passages get to the point where you say that they contradict each other, how would you get a contradiction in an account by Moses of things in his own day? So when you carry it on from Genesis, you soon reach the point where you wonder if Moses wrote the rest of the Pentateuch. You begin to wonder whether it might not be a later writer who combines the documents in the rest of the Pentateuch. And when it is extended into the rest of the Pentateuch one begins to raise questions about the Mosaic authorship which you do not have when you confine it to Genesis.

When you get it into the rest of the Pentateuch, you get into a different area, because there you are immediately asked the question, if you have two different stories of events in Moses' time, and particularly if these stories contradict each other, then how could Moses have written them?

So the extension of Eichhorn's theory into other parts of the Pentateuch (whether Eichhorn actually began that extension in the very end of his life or not) and the tendency to deny Mosaic authorship was a critical move in the direction of something that is really harmful. Eichhorn's original view might be considered simply a harmless speculation, provided you say, "Perhaps it was this way; let's look at the facts and see whether the evidence is enough to prove it, or merely to suggest it."

All that we have been looking at so far deals with what we might call the early documentary theory. I call it early because there was a big gap between it and the later documentary theory.

Eichhorn advanced substantially the same theory that Astruc advanced, whether he got it from Astruc or whether it was entirely independent of him. It is substantially the same view. This view is a