

arrangement.”

In 1878 Julius Wellhausen published a book in which he strongly presented the same view. He said, “What everybody has thought to be the earliest document is actually the last. What you call the ground writing or the beginning, is really the final section.”

This was like a Copernican revolution. There was a complete change in the whole attitude of the Criticism. The previous order had been: first the priestly legislation (which later came to be called P), next the Jehovistic, then the second Elohist (later given the title E) and last of all Deuteronomy (called D). This was a complete change in the whole system. Now it became J first, then E and D, with P last.

Wellhausen was a comparatively young man when he wrote his epoch-making book. He was a brilliant scholar who had already written articles on New Testament criticism which had received great attention. His study of Arabic and his work on the Old Testament came to be recognized throughout the world. Yet his great influence in Old Testament criticism must be attributed to quite an extent to his unusual ability as a writer. Most of the German scholars were difficult to read because of their cumbersome, awkward style. For instance, one of Hupfeld's sentences may extend through two or three pages with the verb at the very end. So many readers are not sure until they reach the end of the sentence what is its real point. German style tends to be awkward, cumbersome, and difficult to read. At Dr. Buswell's request I translated one of Zahn's discussions into English and I found it necessary to break up every sentence into two or three English sentences to make it understandable. Wellhausen, however, had a very attractive style, writing short sentences that were easily understood. He presented his new theory in a book on the history of Israel, published in 1878. Up to this time study of the Criticism had been largely restricted to a number of scholars along with a comparatively small number of readers and very few others knew much about it. When Hupfeld, Graf and Kuenen published their interpretation most scholars paid little attention. Wellhausen presented the theory that Graf and Kuenen had worked out, writing it up in beautiful and attractive German. His book was read all over the