

During the Middle Ages all scholars agreed that the world was flat and that it was the center of the universe. All agreed on it, but that did not prove it. In almost any science you think of, in any branch of sociology, or in any branch of government, theory after theory has been accepted by all at one time and then proven to be utterly false. Actually, it does not make any difference, what the bulk of people think. The question is, what is thought by those who have access to the facts and have taken time to investigate? In the matter of evolution, what the half of one percent of the scientists who have really studied that matter think is far more important than what is thought by all the rest of the scientists, who are not working that particular field. The important question is not, what does somebody think, but what are the facts? Yet this argument has a great effect upon people's minds and exerts tremendous influence. If you have been brought up to believe a certain thing, you are apt to hold tenaciously to it, and to feel that it must be right. In matters involved in denominational differences, most people take a certain position because their parents did, or because the people with whom they are associated do, instead of bothering to look into the facts and examine them for themselves in the light of Scripture. But this was one of the great arguments, that all scholars agree. They said that all scholars agreed that the Pentateuch could be precisely divided between P, J, and E. The claim that all agree was a powerful argument. It had a great effect. I do not think that it is a reasonable argument. You cannot determine truth by counting noses.

I have been discussing, up to this point, the importance of the argument from the consensus of scholarship. Such an argument is less important than it seems to be, but has had a great influence. Next I want to show why it is not really a valid argument.

1) *This agreement has never been perfect.*

After Wellhausen there were still great scholars in Germany who held to the documentary theory and did not accept his theories. Remember that when Hupfeld presented the second Elohist, most scholars thought that this was a retrograde movement. "Why, here you have your clear division with one document using the name God right