

the great majority of the scholars, but I am simply saying that the argument is not as strong as it is generally made out to be.

Dillmann held to the Supplementary theory rather than to the changes introduced by Wellhausen, and Dillmann continued to be one of the great critical scholars in Germany until about 1900. The consensus of scholarship argued in this fashion: is it possible to take this book and divide it up into the documents which originally existed separately? Then they say, "It must be possible because all these scholars agree on the details and they come to the same conclusion."

You cannot determine whether Moses wrote the Pentateuch or not by counting noses. You will find that a great number of scholars agree in saying that Moses did not write the Pentateuch. But that does not prove that he did not.

If you were to pick six different people here in this room, and you were to say, "Here is a hymn in the hymnal which says, 'Major D. W. Whittle, James McGraham.' " You used to think that meant that James McGraham wrote the music and Whittle wrote the words. Actually, it means that Whittle wrote part of it and McGraham wrote part of it, and they have been combined into one poem. Then I might say, McGraham writes in a very flowing style, with very beautiful English, but Whittle writes in choppy, jerky English. Now take all the flowing sections and take all the choppy sections, and put each group of sections together and see if you do not have two different poems. If I were to give this poem to six different people and say, divide it up, and if each of them would work separately for an hour and they would then come back and we would find that they had made exactly the same divisions, that would be a rather good argument that there were such criteria in the poem, since different people acting independently would recognize them and find them. Then, if all the rest who had not studied the matter would raise their hands and say whether they would agree or disagree, that would not prove anything one way or the other. If great thinkers working independently reach the same conclusion on a division, it is rather strong evidence for the criteria being what they say they are. That is the argument for consensus of scholarship, that all these great scholars agree that you can take out the P document and