

VI. THE DEVELOPMENTAL HYPOTHESIS

This is the argument for development. We have just been speaking of the great importance of this phase of the criticism.

A. Summary of the Argument for Development

We do not need to spend much time on the Summary, because I have assigned you enough reading about the argument for development – some recently and some a while ago.

It is claimed that they can show development along these two lines – *religious ideas* and *religious institutions* – though religious ideas is the one most commonly understood or thought of. If proved, religious ideas is the one which would be the most vital of the two. The principal feature about development within the documents with regard to religious ideas is the claim that in J, and somewhat less in E, God is dealt with as if He were a man. In Genesis 2 and 3, we find that God fashioned man and that He breathed the breath of life into his nostrils. We find that God planted a garden and placed the man there. We find that God opened the side of the man and closed it after he had taken out a portion of his side. We find that He walked in the garden in the cool of the day. We find in Genesis 7 and 8 that He shut Noah into the ark. We find after the flood story that He smelled the sacrifice. We find in 11:5 that He comes down and sees what the children of men are doing. We find that in Exodus 4:24 He meets Moses and seeks to slay him. In Exodus 14:25 He takes off the chariot wheels of the Egyptians. These phrases are used to show God performing activities such as you would expect a person to perform, and using the terms such as would be used of a human being. They say that in P you do not find so much of that sort of thing. Driver says of P that its representations of God are less anthropomorphic than those of J or even of E. No angels are mentioned by him. Driver says that P does speak of God as “appearing to men” and “going up from men” at important moments of history, but that P gives no further description of God’s appearance. Usually in P the revelation of God to