

200 Years of Research

Von Rad, Gen. 23

The preceding discussion presupposes the recognition of a fact that has become accepted in contemporary Old Testament science after almost 200 years of research: The books Genesis to Joshua consist of several continuous source documents that were woven together more or less skillfully by a redactor.

Kuhl, 52

Knowledge of the origins and composition of the Pentateuch is still relatively new. The foundations were laid over 200 years ago, when it was observed that in the Book of Genesis the name given to God varies, apparently quite arbitrarily, between Yahweh and Elohim.

Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible, Abingdon Press, N. Y., 1962. "Pentateuch" by D. N. Freedman, *713 B'...* "product of labor of many eminent OT scholars of the past two hundred years..."
The systematic, critical investigation of the Pentateuch has been carried on for the past two hundred years. *723, 310*

Anderson, B.W., Understanding the Old Testament

p. 12-13 Among Biblical scholars, the dominant view is that the Pentateuch is a composite work in which several literary sources have been blended together. According to this hypothesis, which rests on the critical labors of more than two centuries of intensive study, there are four main literary strands, to which are assigned the symbols, J, E, D, and P.

Eissfeldt, 241

'Modern' Pentateuchal criticism, now more than 200 years old, put in the place of what was up till then on the whole the determinative flat picture of the Pentateuch, a three-dimensional one.

60 years

Simpson, C. A., "The Growth of the Hexateuch", Interpreter's Bible

p. 190 The Graf-Wellhausen hypothesis has commanded the assent of the great majority of Old Testament critics for more than sixty years, and has served as the point of departure for investigation of the internal structure of the several sources.

250 years

L.E.P. Erith "Introduction to the Criticism of the Pentateuch" in A New Commentary on Holy Scripture edited by Chas. Gore, H. L. Goudge, Alfred Guillaume (The Macmillan Co.: New York) 1928 page 22

This will also serve to correct the misrepresentation, frequently repeated, that the higher criticism of the Old Testament was invented in Germany by Dr. Wellhausen during the latter half of the 19th century; while, in fact, it is the outcome of long and patient study and research by various scholars during the past 250 years, who, working for the most part independently, have reached substantially the same conclusions.

Eissfeldt, "Genesis" in IDB, says that the documentary theory has remained authoritative for the past two centuries, (since Astruc (d. 1766) and Eichhorn (d. 1827))