

Taken from "The Growth of the Hexateuch" by C. A. Simpson in The Interpreter's Bible (1952)
 (Abingdon-Cokesbury - N.Y., Nashville)

Wellhausen recognized successive strata of material in J, in E, and in P. He represented this material by the symbols J1, J2, E1, E2, P1, etc. He was, however, careful to insist upon the provisional character of his conclusions, and left many points of detail to be determined by future investigation.

Kuenen recognized divergencies within both J and E which he attributed to the systematic elaboration of ~~the~~ one basic narrative. (Karl Budde argued for in Gen. 1-11 two originally independent documents/which had been woven together by a redactor into the J narrative.) Hermann Gunkel followed Budde in distinguishing two independent strands in the J narrative of chs. 1-11. He also found two independent strands in the J material dealing with the patriarchs though he was unable to decide whether or not these were continuous with the strands in the earlier chapters.

In 1912 Rudolf Smend published Die Erzählung des Hexateuch (Berlin: Georg Reimer) in which he advanced the theory that the narrative, apart from the Deuteronomic material contained in it, was the result of the conflation not of three, but of four documents J1, J2, E, and P. Of these, J1 and J2 had first been combined by a redactor, R^J, whose material was then fused with E by RE. Tho this R^D had later added Deut. Finally, R^P had combined R^D's work with P.

Smend's methods and conclusions, with certain minor modifications, were accepted by Otto Eissfeldt in Hexateuch Synopse, 1922. To avoid, however, any suggestion that the J2 source was merely an elaboration of J1, he substituted the symbols L and J for Smend's J1 and J2.

Eduard Meyer in Die Israeliten und ihre Nachbarstämme (1906), taking up where Wellhausen left off, established the existence of a J1 document in the Hexateuch which told of the Israelites journeying directly to Kadesh from the Red Sea, and showed that the document had been elaborated by the later writer, J2, who added the material telling of the journey of Israel to Sinai and of the lawgiving there