

Simpson says that "The conclusion demanded by the observation of these phenomena would seem to be that the inconsistencies and repetitions within the J material of the Hexateuch, to which Wellhausen first called attention in 1876, are due to the fact that the document is based on a very simple narrative, J1, embodying the tradition of the southern tribes, and that this was later elaborated by another writer, J2, who added to it the tradition of the Joseph tribes, reconciling the two traditions as best he could.

The 'second edition' of the J document itself received some further additions, but this elaboration did not have the systematic character which marks the work of J2. It was the completed J document - J2 plus supplements - which was ultimately conflated with the E document to form the narrative JE.

This conclusion . . . rejects the theory . . . that the J narrative is the product of the interweaving of two originally separate and independent documents.