

## Critical Theories

1948

C. A. Simpson finds at least five main documents identified in Exodus besides some redactional and deuteronomic additions. These five are J1, J2, J3, E, and P.

J1 is the earliest document. It is based upon and sets forth the tradition of the southern tribes. It was used by J2 as the nucleus of his own more extensive work, *and contains some traditions of the "house of Joseph"*. ~~The E document represents a thoroughgoing revision and adaptation of the J tradition and this J2 document was, in the course of time, subjected to elaboration by various hands. The E document represents a thoroughgoing revision and adaptation of the J tradition, and this document was also expanded and to some extent revised by later hands. The J and E documents in their final form were ultimately conflated by the redactor, Rje, whose aim was to unify traditions.~~

Simpson finds J3 in Exod. 12.21-23, 29; 15.22a. This interpolator shifts the observance of the passover from the wilderness to Egypt and "must have removed from the J2 account the observance of the feast at Marah" (p. 187) J3's intent, in Ex. 12.22a, ~~in using Israel~~ "seems to be to dissociate the three days' (journey) mentioned in 22b from that for which Moses had asked permission so that the passover might be kept. "J3 was presumably of the opinion that the Pharaoh's stubbornness, resulting in the death of the first-born, had rendered nugatory the whole idea of a furlough (which was for J1 a mere subterfuge); and the feast which Jahveh had intended should be kept in the wilderness was, under the pressure of necessity, anticipated." (p. 187)

Simpson admits (p. 198) that his analysis of Ex. 19.25-25 is "admittedly highly conjectural."

Simpson disagrees with Smend and Eissfeldt on a number of points. For instance Simpson says that Smend and Eissfeldt hold that Exodus 4.10-12 are from E on the ground that they cannot be separated from verses 13-16. But Simpson says that the author of v. 12 could not have ~~been~~ written vs. 13-16. Simpson further holds that 4.13-16 are a secondary addition of E (pp. 164f cf. p. 370) while Smend and Eissfeldt hold that these verses belong to the primary strand of E. (Illustrations cont'd on following page)