

Shotwell, James T., The Story of Ancient History (Columbia Univ. Press, N.Y.) 1939

Thanks to the bungling performance of the Redactor the sources of biblical criticism have not been lost!

p. 118 Sometime in the seventh century a Judaeen author joined J and ^{p.119}E into a single narrative known as JE - a rather careless weaving of the two strands, not eliminating contradictions and repetitions. Evidently this bungling performance was forced upon the editor by the vitality of the various versions, but he rather increased than lessened his difficulties by adding further variants from still other sources. Unsatisfactory as his compilation is from the standpoint of a finished artistic production, the biblical critic is often grateful that it is as poor as it is; for the trace of the different strands, which we have just been examining, might otherwise have been obliterated. Had Judea produced a Thucydides for the perpetuation of its national history, capable of rising to the full height of his theme and recasting the fragmentary and uncouth materials into the mould of art, the history of the world would now be poorer instead of richer, for the sources would have been lost.

T ((If a Thucydides could do it why not a Moses? H. J. Rose in A Handbook of Greek Literature(London:1951) says that the method Thucydides used was "annalistic, the events of each summer and each winter being related in order. This has the advantage of great clarity, but the disadvantage that the narrative of some important matter has often to stop half-way in order to mention quite trivial incidents which happen to occur at the same time in some other part of the theatre of war. At suitable intervals, speeches are inserted. By Thucydides' own account, these give the substance of what he supposes the real speakers likely to have said; but they furnish him with an admirable method of commenting, not only on the actual situations as they occur, but on the hopes and ideals of both parties. . . This device, therefore, is never a mere indulgence in rhetoric but takes the place of much comment that a modern historian would make in his own person, whether in the text or in footnotes and appendices." pp. 303-304.

Rose says also that "Thucydides' work was admired and studied apparently almost from the moment it was published" adding that "the time and manner of its publication are unknown, though it must have been after the death of Thucydides." p. 305

Evidently nobody has yet thought of a "documentary theory" for Thucydides (termed by H. J. Rose as "perhaps the greatest historian who has yet lived, incontestably the greatest in antiquity." p. 302)))