

Wellhausen, Hist. of Israel, 39

The great antiquity of the priestly legislation is proved by relegating it to an historical sphere, created by itself out of its own legal premisses, but which is nowhere to be found within, and therefore must have preceded actual history. - Thus (so to speak) it holds itself up in the air by its own waistband.

Hastings Dictionary of the Bible article on "Exodus" by G. Harford-Battersby, Vol I, p.811

The Priestly writer (P) has lost all hold upon the simplicities and roughness of the childhood of the nation. So possessed is he with reverence for the religious institutions of the now ruined temple, that he not only has already in the vision-chamber of his imagination elaborated them to an ideal perfection which they never had, but this ideal picture must be, he has become persuaded, the reflection of what actually existed in the primitive, the perfect days. Each new improvement is unhesitatingly added with the same formula of Divine inspiration, the argument being: 'We see this to be best now, therefore it must have been ordered and done then.'