

EROSION OF WELLHAUSENISM

The Study of the Bible Today and Tomorrow, edited by Harold R. Willoughby
(The University of Chicago Press) 1947

"The Present State of Biblical Archeology", by G. Ernest Wright

p. 87 When it is sometimes said that recent study has done little to disturb the basic tenents of the Graf-Wellhausen hypothesis, we should not fail to observe that the statement is confined to the continued recognition of the basic documents and the acceptance of certain dates for their completion. There is more, however, to Wellhausenism than this. It is primarily a reconstruction of the whole institutional history of Israel in line with Hegelian developmental patterns and based upon the assumption that the material within a given document is more of a reflection of the age in which the document was compiled than of the age which it purports to describe. Archaeological discoveries and the new perspective which they are bringing about are attacking this aspect of Wellhausenism, with the result that many of its basic tenents are being revised.