

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" G. Ernest Wright

p. 94 The purpose of this brief discussion is not to list all the evidence which archeology presents for the study of biblical religion but to point out its most significant contributions: namely, the presentation of evidence which proves that the Graf-Kuënen-Wellhausen reconstruction of the history of Israel's religion is a /
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 vast oversimplification. In its circular reasoning,⁵⁸ in its exclusive attention to the extreme simplification of the historical process along unilateral evolutionary lines, in its abnormal preoccupation with what is "primitive" and "advanced" according to an a priori scale of ethical judgments (under the guise of "objectivity"), and in its inevitable naïveté regarding the conceptual life of the ancient world, it has been shown, and will be increasingly proved, to be utterly inadequate as a final interpretation of the religious data which the Old Testament presents. For this reason the Old Testament is a wide-open field today for research and study as it has not been for fifty years.

58 That is, a theory is established on the basis of biblical passages, and then by means of the theory the same passages are dated ("on internal evidence").