

direction of natural development and thus go from early to late, but when we have one book with no evidence of such different documents ever having existed as separate entities, then to divide it up into different sections, saying that these are distinct sources and then to claim that there has been progress from one of them to the other, in such a way as the development theory maintains, involves a terrific ~~load of~~ lot of assumption.

A friend of mine attended a class. We go on to a third stage in O.T. study. First we have spoken of the device that when there were so many different theories, of dividing it up into documents and sources just as was commonly done with most ancient books at that time. Then we found this thing brought up into the developmental theory and the Wellhausen theory coming forward and widely accepted so that there seems to be a consensus of scholarly viewpoint regarding the documents of the O.T. But a consensus along a basis very different from that which had previously been held. Now this view was maintained with comparatively little change for about 40 years. Scholars spent their time arguing whether a certain verse was part of j or e, trying to decide whether p was made up of five distinct separate documents or 6, making such divisions, but the fundamental structure of the Wellhausen theory remained unaltered for about 40 years. Now there is a new stage which I think we might call the factual approach. This has come from different sources, largely from the study of archeology and from the dealing with other ancient material. (6 3/4)

It is a movement which actually has been under way for nearly one hundred and fifty years. But during the last 40 years it has come more and more in relation to the criticism of the O.T. And more and more it has been affecting various phases and various points of the Wellhausen approach.

An article of the last issue of the Commentator by H.L. Ginsberg on the recent developments ~~of~~ in the study of the O.T. makes the statement that in the last 30, that the last 30 years have seen a gradual withdrawal from Wellhausenism.