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Bi 108 Old Testament

Professor Armstrong

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1. Explain higher criticism. What is its role in understanding the Bible? Explain its negative characteristics. Ans. Higher criticism is a worldly approach asking questions about the beginning and composing of the text, including when and where it began. The role it plays in understanding the Bible is how the text and language is complied. The meaning of words and forms of expressions. The negative characteristics is that it is based on reasoning rather than revelation and it makes it questionable.

2. Who is Jean Astruc? What was his role in the development of higher criticism?

Ans. He was physician and founder of modern Pentateuch criticism. His role in the development of higher criticism was he believe that he could uncover the source of the Pentateuch by using the divine names of God (Yahweh and Elohim.)

3. Who is Julius Wellhausen? What was his role in the development of higher criticism?

Ans. Julius Wellhausen was a German bible scholar that analysis the Old Testament and the structure and dating Pentateuch. His role in developing the higher criticism was to place the development of the first five books of the Old Testaments into a historical and social context. (Wikipedia)

4. Explain the tenets of JEDP hypothesis. What positive value, if any, does it offer when interpreting the Old Testament? If no positive value, explain.

Ans. The JEDP hypothesis is the theory that seeks to understand the author of the Pentateuch in light of the Documentary Hypothesis. The positive of this is the view of the Pentateuch represents the conflation of four different sources rather than the work of one author.

5. How does the documentary hypothesis explain the names of God? What Scripture is associated with each of His names in the Old Testament?

Ans. It explains the names in the way God's people experience him when faced with different needs or when he has come through for them. Elohim (God) Genesis 1:1, Yahweh (Lord, Jehovah) Genesis 2:4, El Elyon (The Most High God) Genesis14:18, Adonai (Lord, Master)

Genesis 15:2, El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty) Genesis 17:1, El Olam (The Everlasting God) Genesis 21:33, Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide) Genesis 22:14, Jehovah Rapha (The Lord Who Heals) Exodus 15:26, Jehovah Nissi (The Lord Is My Banner) Exodus 17:15, El Qanna (Jealous God) Exodus 20:5, Jehovah Mekoddishkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You) Exodus 31:13, Leviticus 20:8, Jehovah Shalom (The Lord Is Peace) Judges 6:24, Jehovah Sabaoth (The Lord of Host) 1 Samuel 1:3, Jehovah Raah (The Lord Is My Shepherd) Psalm 23:1, Genesis 48:15, Genesis 49:24, and Psalm 80:1, Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness) Jeremiah 23:6, and Jeremiah 33:16, and Jehovah Shammah (The Lord Is There) Ezekiel 48:35.

6. What should we look for to determine if Christian books are influenced by views of higher critics?

Ans. We look for the source of the document to determine who wrote it, when it was written and where it was written.