

WEEK ONE ASSIGNMENT 1

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1. Explain higher criticism. What is its role in understanding the Bible? Explain its negative characteristics.

Higher criticism is an interpretation method that is based on reason rather than revelation. The role higher criticism takes in understanding the bible is the secular approach, which is an attempt to pull down scripture. The negative characteristics of higher criticism is its deep intertwined origin with rationalism and naturalism.

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

Jean Astruc founded Documentary Hypothesis when he came to believe that he could uncover the sources of the Pentateuch by using the divine name of God, Yahweh and Elohim as a guide. Jean Astruc introduced a method that used sources to attempt to interpret a text from a human origin and a divine origin.

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

Julius Wellhausen gave Jean Astruc's Documentary Hypothesis a classic expression by adding 2 additional sources D (Deuteronomist) and P (Priestly Code). His role developed historical criticism by adding depth to the famous Pentateuch division.

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.

The tenets of JEDP are J (Yahwist), E (Elohist), D (Deuteronomist), and P (Priestly Code). I believe the positive value the hypothesis offer when interpreting the Old

Testament is that one can gain greater understanding from the Pentateuch being broken down into the different facets. Each source shows or reveals God in a different light.

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

Documentary hypothesis explains the names of God by attaching different portions of scripture to the sources. The scripture associated with J (Yahwist) is Genesis 4:26, E (Elohist) Genesis 15 and Exodus 3:15, D (Deuteronomist) 2 Kings 22 and Deuteronomy, P (Priestly Code) Genesis 1:1, large portions of Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, and all of Leviticus.

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

The things we should look to see if there is an attempt to pull scripture down and to see if there are any rationalism or naturalism approaches identified in the book.