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T. Römer

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Hebrew Bible / Old Testament  
The History of Its Interpretation

Edited by  
Magne Sæbø

VOLUME III  
From Modernism to Post-Modernism  
(The Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries)

Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht

# Hebrew Bible / Old Testament The History of Its Interpretation

VOLUME III  
From Modernism to Post-Modernism  
(The Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries)

In Co-operation with  
Peter Machinist and Jean Louis Ska, SJ

Edited by  
Magne Sæbø

PART 1  
The Nineteenth Century –  
a Century of Modernism and Historicism

Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht

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## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

# 'Higher Criticism': The Historical and Literary-critical Approach – with Special Reference to the Pentateuch

By THOMAS RÖMER, Paris/Lausanne

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### 1. W.M.L. de Wette

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Wilhelm Martin Leberecht de Wette (1780–1849) is without doubt one of the most influential scholars of the Hebrew Bible of the nineteenth century. According to Rogerson, he could even be called the “founder of Modern Biblical Criticism”. He did, in fact, provide new insight into the understanding of the formation of the Hebrew Bible and especially the Pentateuch.

De Wette was born in Ulla, Saxony, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 1780. In the sixteenth century, his family had converted to Protestantism and moved from the Netherlands to Germany, in order to escape persecution. His father was a minister of the Lutheran church. In 1796, de Wette entered grammar school in Weimar, at a time when Goethe and Schiller were residents of the town. At grammar school, he met Herder, the Lutheran General Superintendent. Herder’s teaching and preaching fascinated de Wette, and this encounter motivated him to pursue his study of theology. In 1799, de Wette entered the University of Jena as a student of philosophy and theology. In philosophy, he attended lectures by Schelling, Hegel and the young scholar Fries. Later, Fries and de Wette became close friends, and the philosophical system of Fries, who was a follower of Kant, strongly influenced de Wette’s theological and exegetical work.<sup>1</sup> Fries, however, aimed to overcome the transcendental proofs by which Kant tried to demonstrate the existence of ideas. According to Fries, there is an anthropological necessity for the existence of the human intuitions of value, unity and harmony, even if the human understanding of the reality that lies behind these intuitions is limited. Nevertheless human beings are gifted with “*Abndung*”, premonitions of the ultimate realities.<sup>2</sup> Fries used the term “myth” to describe human attempts to express their intuitions of these ultimate realities.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, de Wette would frequently use the term “myth” in order to characterize the narratives of the Penta- or Hexateuch. This may well betray the influence of Fries, but may also be inspired by the work of Christian Gottlob Heyne,<sup>4</sup> the founder of the study of mythology.<sup>5</sup> In 1805, de Wette presented his dissertation which we will take a closer look at below (see 1.1.). He was married in the same year, but his wife died shortly afterwards (in 1806). Several months later, Jena was plundered by French troops and de Wette lost all his possessions. After being appointed at the University of Heidelberg in 1807, he remarried in 1809 and was offered a professorship at the newly founded University of Berlin in 1810, where Schleiermacher was among his colleagues. After some initial rivalry,<sup>6</sup> they

<sup>1</sup> There is some uncertainty how well de Wette knew Fries when he was a student in Jena. In his 1984 book, *OT Criticism*, Rogerson is very affirmative about a close relationship between the two while de Wette was still a student (pp. 36–40), yet in his book of 1992, on de Wette, he retracts this view (24–26) and concludes: “It can be said with confidence that there was no influence of Fries upon de Wette, and probably no friendship at that time” (26). Smend, *Deutsche Alttestamentler* (1989), 40, however, thinks that Fries began to influence de Wette while he was in Jena.

<sup>2</sup> J.F. FRIES, *Wissen, Glaube und Abndung* (1805) (Göttingen 1905; repr. and edited by L. Nelson), 171–327.

<sup>3</sup> J.F. FRIES, *Sämtliche Schriften*, 6. *Neue oder anthropologische Kritik der Vernunft*, 3 (1831) (Aalen 1967).

<sup>4</sup> Smend, *Deutsche Alttestamentler* (1989), 42.

<sup>5</sup> On Heyne and the concept of myth see S. FORNARA, “Christian Gottlob Heyne dans l’histoire des études classiques”, *Revue Germanique Internationale* 14 (2011) 15–26.

<sup>6</sup> In a letter to Schleiermacher, dated 24.7.1810 (edited in Stachelin, *Dewettiana*, 1956, 68), de

became close<sup>7</sup> and strongly influenced each other. In 1819, and despite the opposition of Schleiermacher, de Wette was dismissed from his chair following a letter he wrote to the mother of Karl Ludwig Sand, the murderer of the reactionary poet August Kotzebue.<sup>8</sup> After three years of exile spent in Weimar, de Wette was appointed at the Faculty of Theology at the University of Basel. After the death of his second wife he remarried again in 1833. He died in 1849, while serving as university principal for the fifth time.<sup>9</sup>

Initially attacked by Pietist groups because of his liberal teaching, de Wette turned more and more conservative towards the end of his life.<sup>10</sup> De Wette's works that had a major influence on critical Hebrew Bible scholarship were not written in Basel, but in Jena and Berlin.

### 1.1. De Wette and Deuteronomy (1805)

In his short doctoral dissertation of 1805,<sup>11</sup> de Wette aimed to demonstrate the specific character of Deuteronomy with regard to the other books of the Pentateuch. He started by stating that it has become impossible to maintain the idea of Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, a statement that must have sounded somewhat optimistic at the time.<sup>12</sup> He was mainly interested in demonstrating that and in which respect the book of Deuteronomy is different from the books of Genesis to Numbers. Since Leviticus 26 constitutes a clear conclusion of the Mosaic Law and since Deuteronomy repeats this chapter in a different style, de Wette draws the conclusion that Deuteronomy stems from a different author.<sup>13</sup> He also lists an important number of words and expressions that do not appear in the Tetrateuch.<sup>14</sup> The fact that Deuteronomy also contains parallels to the laws and narratives of the preceding books shows that its author was familiar with those traditions and that his work must therefore date from a later period.<sup>15</sup> De Wette further observes that the main focus of the Deuteronomical law lies on the

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Wette assumes, however, that Schleiermacher was the initiator of his call to Berlin. Later he told Fries that Schleiermacher gave himself airs and that it was difficult to get close to him (Stahelin, *ibid.* 69). There was some competition between the two with regard to the number of students they would attract (letter to Fries of 31.12.1814; see Stahelin, *ibid.* 74).

<sup>7</sup> Letter to Fries of 15.3.1817, see Stahelin, *ibid.* 78, and Schleiermacher's letter to de Wette, 5.4.1817, 78–80.

<sup>8</sup> The letter is reprinted in Stahelin, *ibid.* 85–87.

<sup>9</sup> For more details see Rogerson, W. M. L. de Wette (1992), 192–271.

<sup>10</sup> See especially his book *Biblische Geschichte*, where he does not retract the critical investigation of the Bible, although he is in favour of a quite literalist approach when teaching the biblical story to the youth. The older de Wette's view of biblical history was influential for many conservative scholars who worked with the concept of a "history of salvation" (*Heilsgeschichte*).

<sup>11</sup> Reprinted 1830 in his *Opuscula*, now in Mathys, *Dissertatio* (2008), with a German translation. The work will be quoted after Mathys' edition. For a photo of this original publication's title, see Mathys, *ibid.* 183.

<sup>12</sup> Or is it polemical against scholars like Eichhorn, whom he tries to refute one year later in his *Beiträge*?

<sup>13</sup> *Dissertatio* (ed. Mathys), 184–86.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* 186–87.

<sup>15</sup> *Libros illos novisse et ante oculos habuisse auctorem nostrum insitias ire non possumus*, *ibid.* 191–192.

authority of the Jerusalemite Temple and the idea of a centralization of the cult. This idea is a novelty; the books of Samuel and Kings containing narratives like 1 Kings 3, where Salomon offers sacrifices at Gibeon, without any negative comment. The law of Deuteronomy 12 clearly contradicts Exod 20:21–22. It comes close to Leviticus 17, which states that all sacrifices must be offered at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, but the laws in Leviticus never refer to this concept, contrary to Deuteronomy 14–17. The passages in Leviticus must therefore predate Deuteronomy.<sup>16</sup> The historical context of the attempt to make the Temple of Jerusalem the only legitimate sanctuary was the time of Josiah. In a lengthy footnote, de Wette states that *illum enim codicem legum ab Hilikia sacerdote inventum* (2 Reg. 22.) *Deuteronomium nostrum fuisse haud improbabili conjectura judicare potest.*<sup>17</sup> The identification of the book discovered in 2 Kings 22 with the book of Deuteronomy was not new; it is attested in Jerome and in Chrysostom.<sup>18</sup> While the identification of Deuteronomy with Josiah's law book was nothing new, the possibility that Deuteronomy could stem from the time of Josiah was, and it would allow a precise date for the book of Deuteronomy. Although de Wette, who was cautious, did not explicitly state this in his dissertation, he provided, as O. Eissfeldt put it, "Pentateuchal criticism with a 'point of Archimedes' to which it could attach itself in order to deliver it from the bonds of church and synagogue tradition, and put in its place an alternative dating of the Pentateuch".<sup>19</sup> In his *Beiträge* (the first volume of which appeared only one year later), de Wette was more precise. On pages 168–79, he tries to refute Eichhorn's view that the discovered law book was old and well known.<sup>20</sup> In a careful analysis of 2 Kings 22, de Wette demonstrates that the narrative itself proves that the book was formerly unknown and probably hidden in the Temple by the priest Hilikiah,<sup>21</sup> thus supporting the idea of a seventh-century BC origin of Deuteronomy. De Wette also argued, referring to Vater, that the book which triggered the Josianic Reform "was not our Deuteronomy in its present form and extent since, as Vater has shown, it has been put together from a number of pieces".<sup>22</sup>

<sup>16</sup> De Wette never accepted the idea held by Graf and others that the "priestly" texts in Leviticus and elsewhere were later than the book of Deuteronomy.

<sup>17</sup> *Dissertatio* (ed. Mathys), 190.

<sup>18</sup> For details see Mathys, *Dissertatio* (2008), 174–81.

<sup>19</sup> O. EISSFELDT, *The Old Testament: An Introduction* (New York 1965), 171.

<sup>20</sup> Since quoting rules were at that time liberal, de Wette never quotes the pages precisely. He seems to refer to J. G. EICHHORN, *Einleitung ins Alte Testament*, 1–3 (Reutlingen 1790), vol. 2, 257–260 (§ 411).

<sup>21</sup> *Beiträge*, I, 170. But here, also he remains cautious: *Doch bin ich weit davon entfernt, diese Vermuthung zur Gewisheit erheben zu wollen ... Woher das Buch gekommen sey, darüber zieht die Geschichte ihren Vorhang und es würde vermessen seyn, ihn wegziehen zu wollen.*

<sup>22</sup> *Beiträge*, I, 177 (transl. from Rogerson, W. M. L. de Wette, 1992, 58).



1.2. *de Wette and Vater*

At the end of his dissertation, de Wette refers to Johan Severin Vater's third volume on the Pentateuch,<sup>23</sup> describing him as a "*socius*" with regard to his ideas about the formation of the Pentateuch. While de Wette only mentions that he found this work delightful, Griesbach, de Wette's teacher in Jena, tells us that de Wette was half delighted, half shocked.<sup>24</sup> Therefore, he probably shortened and hastened the publication of his "Contributions" of 1806–1807, in which he outlines his ideas about the formation of the Pentateuch and the historical books. As far as the Pentateuch is concerned, these ideas are quite similar to those expressed by Vater. Johan Severin Vater (1771–1826)<sup>25</sup> was above all a linguist (a specialist in Slavonic and indigenous American languages) and also a biblical scholar. In 1798, he was appointed professor in Jena, yet he moved to Halle in 1799, which is why it is uncertain whether de Wette knew him at that time. After the French had closed the University of Halle, Vater went to Königsberg, where he taught theology, and came back to Halle in 1820. In the title of his three-volume commentary on the Pentateuch, Vater explicitly refers to the Scottish biblical scholar A. Geddes,<sup>26</sup> who had characterized the Pentateuch as a combination of different and originally unrelated fragments. In his commentary, Vater provides a German translation of Geddes' *Critical Remarks* (he was a linguist!) and offers his own view on the formation of the Pentateuch, which he perceives to be the result of a compilation of hundreds of fragments. Vater criticized the documentary hypothesis held by Astruc, Eichhorn and Ilgen, by showing that it is impossible to reconstruct two separate coherent documents, one that uses "elohim" and one that uses "Jehova",<sup>27</sup> and by pointing out that in books like Kings or Chronicles, both names can be used by the same author. Vater also acknowledged the specific character of Genesis and Deuteronomy in comparison to Exodus-Numbers.<sup>28</sup> Genesis and Numbers are the most fragmentary books, but even Deuteronomy is the result of the combination of about twenty fragments: Deut 28 could represent an original conclusion which was complemented by various fragments in several stages. While Geddes had been quite optimistic about the fact that Moses could have written an important number of the fragments of the Pentateuch himself, and while he argued that the most plausible time of its compilation was the time of Solomon, Vater showed himself very sceptical about the existence of fragments of Mosaic origin, although he did not completely reject the possibility. He thought, however, that the first law collection was formed in early monarchic

<sup>23</sup> Vater, *Commentar* (1802/05).

<sup>24</sup> Griesbach in his *Vorrede* to de Wette's *Beiträge: halb erfreut, und halb erschrocken* (v). According to Griesbach, and after consultation with Vater, de Wette published his *Beiträge* very quickly, in order not to be suspected of having only copied from Vater (see vi–vii).

<sup>25</sup> E. KUHN, "Vater, Johann Severin", *ADB* 39 (1895), 503–508; <http://www.deutsche-biographie.de/pnd118767372.html?anchor=adb> (30.5.2012).

<sup>26</sup> On Geddes see *HBOT* II (2008), 964–970 (W. McKane)

<sup>27</sup> *Commentar*, 3, 696–728.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.* 514: *Die Genesis könnte als etwas für sich Bestehendes schon vorhanden gewesen seyn ... Auch Deuteronomium könnte seinem größten Theile nach schon ohne Rücksicht auf die vorhergehenden Bücher zu einem Ganzen vereinigt worden seyn.*

times and considered that the Pentateuch came into existence towards the end of the monarchy and received its definitive form in exilic times.<sup>29</sup>

De Wette held a similar view in his *Beiträge*, considering the Pentateuch to be the result of the bringing together of formerly independent fragments. He argued, however, that the well-organized arrangement of the fragments necessitated the existence of a basic framework into which the different fragments were incorporated. This framework, which de Wette thought could roughly be reconstructed up to the Sinai revelation in the book of Exodus (Gen 1:1–2:4; 5; 6:9–22; 7:11–24; 8:1–5, 13–19; 9:1–7; 11:10–32\*; 17; 23; 35:9–15; Exod 1–2\*; 11–12\*; 13\*; 19:7–19; 20),<sup>30</sup> coincided largely with Eichhorn's "Elohim document". This epic of the Israelite monarchy was written in monarchic times and later complemented by the fragments, which were combined in the books of Leviticus and Numbers. Leviticus was the work of later priests who added their ritual laws; the compilers of the book of Numbers imitated fragments of Exodus displaying a mixture of ceremonial laws and mythological accounts typical of a later composition.<sup>31</sup> The book of Deuteronomy, finally, was something totally different, providing a reinterpretation of materials contained in the books of Exodus and Numbers.<sup>32</sup> In the theocratic epic, later texts that imitated older ones were also incorporated as, for instance, the account of God's covenant with Abraham, which reinterprets Genesis 17.<sup>33</sup>

Following the advice of his teacher Griesbach, de Wette's first volume focuses on the historical books of the Hebrew Bible, especially Samuel-Kings and Chronicles, which was meant to distinguish his work from that of Vater. In this volume, de Wette declares that anyone interested in the history of ancient Israel must pay attention to the evolution of the Israelite religion. This interest in the evolution of religious concepts, which betrays the influence of Schelling and Fries,<sup>34</sup> foreshadows the theories of Wellhausen and others. In order to reconstruct ancient Israelite history, de Wette states that Samuel-Kings and Chronicles offer two contradictory accounts. De Wette denied the historical credibility of the Chronicles which he dated around 330 BCE. The books of Samuel and Kings, edited around 550 BCE, were deemed more reliable by him. The author of Chronicles used Samuel-Kings as a source and reworked the accounts according to his own theological viewpoints.<sup>35</sup> De Wette's demonstration is so convin-

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. 673–681.

<sup>30</sup> *Beiträge*, II, 29.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. 279.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid. 385 ff.

<sup>33</sup> Here again de Wette appears as a forerunner of contemporary Pentateuchal scholarship. After the identification of the "Elohim document" with the Priestly document (see below), Genesis 15 was mostly held to be older than Genesis 17. Only recently has it been recognized that this view is problematic and that Genesis 15 is probably later than the priestly account of Genesis 17; see among others T. RÖMER, "Gen 15 und Gen 17. Beobachtungen und Anfragen zu einem Dogma der 'neueren' und 'neuesten' Pentateuchkritik", *DBAT* 26 (1990) 32–47; J. C. GERTZ, "Abraham, Mose und der Exodus. Beobachtungen zur Redaktionsgeschichte von Genesis 15", *Abschied vom Jahwisten. Die Komposition des Hexateuch in der jüngsten Diskussion* (ed. J. C. Gertz / K. Schmid / M. Witte; BZAW 315; Berlin / New York 2002), 63–81; K. SCHMID, *Genesis and the Moses Story. Israel's Dual Origins in the Hebrew Bible* (Siphut 3; Winona Lake, IN 2010).

<sup>34</sup> Smend, *Deutsche Alttestamentler* (1989), 40 and 47.

<sup>35</sup> *Beiträge*, I, 5–136.

cing that most scholars accept his theory until today, although sometimes modified.<sup>36</sup>

De Wette was also a forerunner of "Deuteronomistic studies". In the first volume of his *Beiträge*, he describes Joshua as a late book that depends on Deuteronomy and can be characterized as "deuteronomistic" in style and theology.<sup>37</sup> De Wette's arguments concerning the centralization of the cult and the existence of a law book make the period of Josiah a crucial time for the history of Israelite religion. By entrenching the birth of Deuteronomistic theology in the time of Josiah, de Wette profoundly marked subsequent research.<sup>38</sup>

### 1.3. *The Pentateuch as a Mythical Story of Origins*

As noted above, de Wette's interest in his *Beiträge* was to reconstruct the evolution of the religion of ancient Israel. He reckoned that at the beginning, there was no need for sanctuaries and priests, but a total freedom of cultic concerns: *Wie bey den Patriarchen und homerischen Griechen, war Gottes freier Himmel sein Tempel, jede Mahlzeit ein Opfer ... und jeder Prophet, König und Hausvater ohne weitere Umstände Priester.*<sup>39</sup> After the erection of the Jerusalem Temple, open sanctuaries and cultic freedom remained in existence. It was under Josiah that this freedom came to an end.<sup>40</sup> De Wette was not particularly interested in what came after the Exile. In his *Biblische Dogmatik*, however, he characterizes Judaism as a *verunglückte Wiederherstellung des Hebraismus*.<sup>41</sup> In 1807, he published another "Contribution" devoted to the character of "Hebraism", the Israelite religion before Judaism.<sup>42</sup> In this study he mainly analyzes the books of Psalms, Job and Qoheleth, claiming that the Hebrew Bible witnesses a religion of misfortune (to which Christianity offers consolation). According to de Wette, the Hebrew religion displays the ethical idea of one God as a holy will. However, this idea occurs in mythical form in the narratives of the Old Testament.<sup>43</sup> De Wette's emphasis on myths can be explained when bearing in mind the intellectual context of his time. Rogerson rightly states: "mythology was one of the

<sup>36</sup> Most scholars still accept the view that the Chronicler drew from Samuel-Kings, although from a different textual form than the one conserved in the MT. The older view that Samuel-Kings and Chronicler drew from a common source, which according to Rogerson, *OT Criticism* (1984), 22, was the view of Eichhorn, has recently been defended by A. G. AULD, *Kings Without Privilege. David and Moses in the Story of the Bible's Kings* (Edinburgh 1994), and R. F. PERSON JR., *The Deuteronomistic History and the Books of Chronicles. Scribal Works in an Oral World* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature, 6; Atlanta, GA, 2010).

<sup>37</sup> *Beiträge*, I, 137. In the second note of this page, de Wette even envisages the same author for Deuteronomy and Joshua and qualifies passages as Josh 1:2-9 and 23:3-16 as *ganz deuteronomisch*.

<sup>38</sup> T. RÖMER / A. DE PURY, "Deuteronomistic Historiography (DH): History of Research and Debated Issues", *Israel Constructs Its History. Deuteronomistic History in Recent Research* (ed. A. de Pury / T. Römer / J.-D. Macchi; JSOT.S 306; Sheffield 2000), 24-141; for de Wette see 32-35.

<sup>39</sup> *Beiträge*, I, 255.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.* 258.

<sup>41</sup> W. ZIMMERLI, "Biblische Theologie, I", *TRE* 6 (1980), 426-55, 430.

<sup>42</sup> *Beytrag* (1807).

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.* 304: the story of Genesis 2-3 is a myth for the passage from a stage of innocence to a stage of knowledge and contradictions.

major preoccupations of the literary world in Germany from the last third of the eighteenth century".<sup>44</sup> The perception of the Pentateuch as a mythical text is a central idea in de Wette's works on the Hebrew Bible,<sup>45</sup> from his inaugural lecture through to his last work on the Old Testament.<sup>46</sup> De Wette did not deny that figures like Abraham or Moses were historical,<sup>47</sup> yet he argued that nothing historical could be known about them. Most of the Pentateuchal narratives are mythical since they do not correspond with the laws of nature and contradict general experience (e.g. the appearance of angels, the parting of the sea, the crossing of the sea of more than 600.000 Israelite men with their families in one night).<sup>48</sup>

Criticizing scholars like Eichhorn, de Wette emphasized the fact that the Pentateuch and the whole Bible should not be used as sources for the reconstruction of secular history. Biblical narratives are made up of myths and traditions. Therefore, we do not dispose of historical witnesses, with the exception of some prophets, but even those do not provide the historian with much material.<sup>49</sup> Even if this statement is somewhat contradictory to his treatment of the books of Samuel and Kings, de Wette initiates a new phase of Biblical research with regard to the Pentateuch and the Former Prophets; and a great number of his insights and theories were later taken up by Wellhausen and others. So he is himself a "symbol" for a new paradigm in Biblical Studies.

## 2. The Emergence of Theories about the Formation of the Pentateuch

### 2.1. *Moses and the Pentateuch*

*Bibliography:* F. BLEEK, "Einige aphoristische Beiträge zu den Untersuchungen über den Pentateuch", *Biblich-exegetisches Repertorium*, I (ed. E. F. K. Rosenmüller / G. H. Rosenmüller; Leipzig 1822), 1-79. – A. CLARKE, *The Holy Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, the text carefully printed from the most correct copies of the present authorized translation, including the marginal readings and parallel texts: with a commentary and critical notes designed as a help to a better understanding of the sacred writings* (Nashville 1977; repr. from the 6<sup>th</sup> edition 1851 [first edition 1825]). – S. DAVIDSON, *The Text of the Old Testament Considered; with a Treatise on Sacred Interpretation; and a brief Introduction to the Old Testament Books and the Apocrypha* (London 1856); *An Introduction to the Old Testament Critical, Historical, and Theological: Containing a Discussion of the Most Important Questions* (Edinburgh 1862). – F. DELITZSCH / C. F. KEIL (eds.), *Biblischer Commentar über das Alte Testament*, 1-17 (Leipzig 1861-1875); ET: *Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament* (Edinburgh 1864-1892; new rev. edition: Peabody, MA 1996). – J. G. EICHHORN, *Einleitung in das Alte Testament*, I-III ([1780-1783] 4<sup>th</sup> edition Göttingen 1823/1844). – F. H. W. GESENIUS, *Geschichte der heb-*

<sup>44</sup> Rogerson, W. M. L. de Wette (1992), 48; see also idem, *Myth in Old Testament Interpretation* (BZAW 134; Berlin / New York 1974).

<sup>45</sup> Aufforderung (1805).

<sup>46</sup> Lehrbuch (1816), "de Wette's last work on the Old Testament", so Rogerson, W. M. L. de Wette (1992), 135.

<sup>47</sup> In Beiträge, II (1807), 274, de Wette argues that Moses did indeed promulgate the primitive form of the Decalogue.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid. 173.

<sup>49</sup> Aufforderung (1805), 28.

räischen Sprache und Schrift: eine philologisch-historische Einleitung in Sprachlehren und Wörterbücher der hebräischen Sprache (Leipzig 1815; repr. Hildesheim 1973). – R. H. COHEN, *Reclaiming the Hebrew Bible: German-Jewish Reception of Biblical Criticism* (Studia Judaica, 56; Berlin 2010). – A. T. HARTMANN, *Historisch-kritische Forschungen über Bildung, Zeitalter und Plan der 5 Bücher Moses* (Rostock 1831). – E. W. HENGSTENBERG, *Die Authentie des Pentateuches*, 1–2 (Beiträge zur Einleitung ins Alte Testament, 2–3; Berlin 1836–1839); ET: *Dissertations on the Genuineness of the Pentateuch*, 1–2 (Edinburgh 1858–1868; repr. Grands Rapids 1970); *Die Bücher Mose's und Aegypten; nebst einer Beilage: Manetho und die Hyksos* (Berlin 1841). – H. D. M. SPENCE-JONES / J. S. EXELL (eds.), *The Pulpit Commentary*, 1–36 (London 1882–1892). – T. SÖRENSEN, *Historisch-kritischer Kommentar zur Genesis* (Kiel 1851). – M. VERNES, *Les résultats de l'exégèse biblique: l'histoire, la religion, la littérature* (Paris 1890). – L. ZUNZ, *Kleine gesammelte Schriften*, 1 (Berlin 1875).

When Astruc wrote his *Conjectures*, in which he outlined the Documentary Hypothesis combined with a Fragment Hypothesis, he did this in an apologetic perspective, aiming to defend the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch. He claimed that Moses had at his disposal documents which he used and which latter redactors misused.<sup>50</sup> Even if Mosaic authorship had been rejected on several occasions in the course of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (by Spinoza and others), it was still defended in the first half of the nineteenth. Eichhorn in his influential *Introduction* of 1780–1783 (the fourth edition published in 1823/24) argued that the book of Genesis was almost completed at the time of Moses who had used ancient sources.<sup>51</sup> The same applies to the books of Exodus–Deuteronomy that were all composed by Moses or men that were close to him. The final shape of the Pentateuch was achieved in the time between Joshua and Samuel.<sup>52</sup>

In England, Adam Clarke defended Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch in a commentary on the Old Testament published in 1825.<sup>53</sup> Yet he felt free to emend the text and allowed for the possibility that the Pentateuch contained interpolations most probably made by Ezra in Persian times – but since Ezra was also inspired, his additions were of the same authority as the documents compiled and written by Moses.<sup>54</sup> A quite similar view was still held in 1881 by Thomas Whitelaw, who also conceded revisions by Ezra and rejected the objections against Mosaic authorship made by de Wette, Ewald, Kuenen, Wellhausen and others as “simply incredible”.<sup>55</sup>

In Germany, there was also much resistance against a rationalist approach to the Bible. The major figure was Ernst Wilhelm Hengstenberg (1802–1869),<sup>56</sup> trained in theology and Oriental languages and strongly influenced by the awa-

<sup>50</sup> J. ASTRUC, *Conjectures sur la Genèse. Introduction et notes de Pierre Gibert* (Paris 1999); on Astruc see HBOT II (2008), 846–47.

<sup>51</sup> Einleitung, III (1783), 93. In the fourth edition (1844), Eichhorn has become more cautious in regard to the final composer of Genesis: his name does not really matter. See also A. WESTPHAL, *Les sources du Pentateuque. Étude de critique et d'histoire*, I–II (Paris 1888), I, 122.

<sup>52</sup> Einleitung, III (1783), 177–362.

<sup>53</sup> The commentary of Genesis is from 1810; for details on Clarke see Rogerson, OT Criticism (1984), 180–82.

<sup>54</sup> Preface to the commentary of Genesis (unnumbered page).

<sup>55</sup> “The Authorship of the Pentateuch”, published in the series “The Pulpit Commentary”, quoted according to Rogerson, OT Criticism (1984), 287.

<sup>56</sup> J. BACHMANN, *Ernst Wilhelm Hengstenberg: Sein Leben und Wirken*, 1–3 (Gütersloh 1876–1892); Reventlow, Interpretation, IV (2010), 286–298.

kening movement, which had greatly expanded in the 1820s, especially in Berlin (where Hengstenberg taught as the successor of de Wette from 1826 until his death) and Pomerania (Pommern). Against de Wette and the “rationalists”, Hengstenberg defended the authenticity of all prophetic books of the Bible as well as of the Pentateuch. In 1836 and 1839, he published a two-volume work, *The Authenticity of the Pentateuch* (*Die Authentie des Pentateuches*). In this book (which displays a somewhat confusing disposition), Hengstenberg tries to show that the Pentateuch existed a long time before Ezra. He starts by claiming that prophets like Amos and Hosea knew the Pentateuch (cf. Hosea 12 and Am 2:7) as did the authors of Kings (1 Kings 18 presupposes Lev 1:6–8; 1 Kgs 21:13 knows of Lev 25:33)<sup>57</sup>. Contrary to other conservative critics, Hengstenberg did not accept the idea that the Pentateuch was composed by combining two or more sources. Hengstenberg attacked Astruc’s main argument by claiming (rightly)<sup>58</sup> that the use of *Yhwh* and *Elohim* respectively does not point to different sources. Both names have different meanings, and thus one author might use them both.<sup>59</sup> In his second volume, Hengstenberg deals with the anachronisms in the Pentateuch. Contrary to scholars like Clarke, who allowed for later interpolations, Hengstenberg thought that such a position would speak against the Mosaic authenticity of the Pentateuch. He therefore tries to demonstrate that there are, in fact, no real anachronisms.<sup>60</sup> The same applies to contradictions and doublets, the existence of which Hengstenberg tries to deny by symbolic interpretations or by claiming that parallel passages refer to different events.<sup>61</sup> Most of his arguments are, as Reventlow put it, “spurious” and “occasioned by his fundamentalist guidelines”.<sup>62</sup> Finally, Hengstenberg was one of only few biblical scholars who immediately tried to take into account the discoveries of the new field of Egyptology into their scholarship – although he was, once again, guided by his apologetic position. In his 1841 work *The Books of Moses and Egypt*, published less than twenty years after the decipherment of the Egyptian hieroglyphs by Champollion (1821), Hengstenberg tried to prove the Mosaic authenticity of the Pentateuch by claiming that the image of Egypt, as it is depicted in the Joseph and Exodus narratives, corresponds exactly to Egyptian sources of the time of Moses – an erroneous affirmation.<sup>63</sup> Hengstenberg was very influential in Prussian university politics and prompted the appointment of several conservative professors of theology.

One of Hengstenberg’s influential students was C. F. Keil (1807–1888)<sup>64</sup>, professor of Bible and oriental studies at Dorpat (Tartu). After his retirement in

<sup>57</sup> *Authentic*, I (1836), 48–180.

<sup>58</sup> In recent scholarship, scholars with different backgrounds have shown that the alternation of *Yhwh* and *Elohim* should not be used as a main criterion for source criticism; see, for instance, E. BLUM, *Die Komposition der Vätergeschichte* (WMANT 57; Neukirchen-Vluyn 1984), 471–75.

<sup>59</sup> *Authentic*, I, 306–414.

<sup>60</sup> *Authentic*, II (1839), 179–338.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.* 346–399.

<sup>62</sup> Reventlow, *Interpretation IV* (2010), 296.

<sup>63</sup> See on this D. B. REDFORD, *A Study of the Biblical Story of Joseph* (*Genesis 37–50*) (VT.S 20; Leiden 1970); M. GÖRG, *Die Beziehungen zwischen dem Alten Israel und Ägypten: von den Anfängen bis zum Exil* (EdF 290; Darmstadt 1997).

<sup>64</sup> P. SIEMENS, *Carl Friedrich Keil (1807–1888). Leben und Werk* (Gießen 1994).

1859, Keil moved to Leipzig, where he completed his main scholarly work, the *Biblicher Commentar über das Alte Testament*, a series he co-edited with Franz Delitzsch, to which he contributed the commentaries on the five books of the Pentateuch, the Former and Latter Prophets, as well as Ruth, Lamentations, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles (first edition 1861–1875). This collection, which was also translated into English, proved very influential in German and English conservative scholarship and has remained, until today, a standard work for conservative and fundamentalist Christian colleges. Like Hengstenberg, Keil's aim was to demonstrate the unity and coherence of the Pentateuch by showing that it does not contain real contradictions or other particularities that would necessitate the assumption that different documents were used in its composition. Some of his observations are indeed quite astute; they show that some so-called "contradictions" in the Pentateuch do not have to be regarded as such and do not speak in favour of a radical Documentary or Fragment Hypothesis.

Friedrich Bleek (1793–1859),<sup>65</sup> who advocated the idea of Mosaic origins of the Pentateuch,<sup>66</sup> also held a rather conservative view although he admitted that the Pentateuch as a whole originated in the time of the monarchy. The Penta- or rather Hexateuch was the result of the combination of an older account contained in the books of Genesis–Numbers and Joshua. This account was the work of an author using Mosaic and other documents and writing between the reigns of Saul and Solomon. The account was supplemented by the author of Deuteronomy, who also added passages in the books of Genesis–Numbers. This Pentateuch was then discovered in the temple at the time of Josiah. Contemporaneously, the book of Joshua was separated from the Law of Moses.<sup>67</sup>

The rejection of Mosaic authenticity of the Pentateuch was a challenge for Jewish intellectuals and biblical scholars, too. As HaCohen rightly points out, there was a desire in Reform Judaism, represented by scholars like Levi Herzfeld, Julius Popper and Abraham Geiger, to take up biblical criticism, yet this was prevented by pressures internal and external to the Jewish community, and the *Wissenschaft des Judentums* never really engaged in a critical investigation of the Bible,<sup>68</sup> although there were exceptions like Zunz – as will be shown below.

Even if the conservative positions of Hengstenberg and others remained popular throughout the nineteenth century, they could not prevent the emergence of a new view of the formation of the Pentateuch and the Bible, which turned out to be a rather late and complex document. The change toward a more rationalist view, which had already taken shape in the early nineteenth century (de Wette, Vater), is represented by Samuel Davidson (1807–1898)<sup>69</sup> who was appointed professor of Biblical Criticism at the Lancashire Independent College in Manchester in 1842. After being appointed, he wrote an introduction to the Old Tes-

<sup>65</sup> Smend, *Alttestamentler* (1989), 71–84.

<sup>66</sup> In *Beiträge* (1822), 11, he sees the *höchste Wahrscheinlichkeit [...] daß die schriftliche Aufzeichnung dieser Gesetze schon dem Mose oder dessen Zeitalter angehöre*.

<sup>67</sup> *Beiträge* (1822), 44–62.

<sup>68</sup> HaCohen, *Reclaiming* (2010), 78–85.

<sup>69</sup> Rogerson, *OT Criticism* (1984), 197–208.

tament<sup>70</sup> in which he adopted a rather conservative position, considering, for instance, the Eden Narrative in Gen 2–3 to be a literal account.<sup>71</sup> He defended the thesis that Moses wrote the book of Deuteronomy as well as the Sinai legislation and the wilderness itineraries.<sup>72</sup> For the rest of the books of Genesis to Numbers, Davidson adopted, against Hengstenberg and Keil, a documentary theory, postulating an *Elohim document* from the time of Joshua and a *Jehovah document* from the time of the Judges; both documents were combined in the early monarchy.<sup>73</sup> Davidson pointed out that the Bible did not state explicitly that Moses wrote the entire Pentateuch. He also insisted on the fact that inspiration did not cease with Moses.<sup>74</sup> Yet this rather conservative position provoked letters of protest which led to Davidson's resignation from his position.<sup>75</sup> Following his dismissal, he worked as a private tutor and published a three-volume *Introduction to the Old Testament* in 1862, in which he moved towards a much more critical position. He agreed with Hupfeld, whom he knew personally, on the theory of three documents (see below), which he dated between the time of Saul (the elder Elohist) and Uzziah (the Jehovist).<sup>76</sup> Those sources continued in the book of Joshua, which Davidson considered to be older than the book of Deuteronomy<sup>77</sup> that was not Mosaic any more. Davidson dated it to the seventh century BCE,<sup>78</sup> thus adopting de Wette's position, for whom "he felt particular sympathy . . ., perhaps because both he and de Wette had suffered dismissal".<sup>79</sup>

Davidson's biography is representative of the shift of nineteenth-century Old Testament scholarship. Although the documentary hypothesis emerged in an apologetic perspective (Astruc, Witter), the application of a literary model of the Pentateuch rendered the idea of its Mosaic authorship impossible on a scientific level.

An increasing number of scholars came to the conclusion that the beginning of the Pentateuch had to be located in the monarchic period. The grammarian Wilhelm Gesenius (1786–1842)<sup>80</sup> defended on philological grounds the lateness of Chronicles compared to Samuel–Kings. In his history of the Hebrew Language (*Geschichte der hebräischen Sprache*), he introduced the distinction of pre-exilic and post-exilic Hebrew, still used today, and demonstrated that Chronicles clearly displays a late form of the Hebrew language, contrary to Kings. Gesenius insisted on the stylistic and philological similarities between Deuteronomy and

<sup>70</sup> He was asked to revise Horne's introduction, but finally decided to rewrite a new introduction to the OT.

<sup>71</sup> Text (1856), 576.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid. 616.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. 631.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid. 632–33.

<sup>75</sup> For more details see Rogerson, *OT Criticism* (1984), 201–206. On the one hand Davidson was accused of doubting the plenary inspiration of the Bible. On the other hand he was (anonymously) accused of the plagiarism of German scholars, especially Keil. As Rogerson shows, there are indeed very strong parallels between Keil and Davidson, but Davidson very often does not agree with Keil's conclusions.

<sup>76</sup> Introduction I (1862), 50–51.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid. 424.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid. 383.

<sup>79</sup> Rogerson, *OT Criticism* (1984), 208.

<sup>80</sup> Smend, *Alttestamentler* (1989), 53–70.



the book of Jeremiah that confirmed a late seventh-century dating for Deuteronomy, the latest book of the Pentateuch. Since the other books of the Pentateuch are very close to other narrative books from the monarchic period, it appears that the Pentateuch was written during that time. Anton Theodor Hartmann (1774–1838) took a similar position. He doubted that Moses was able to write and argued that the language of the Pentateuch parallels writings from the time between Hezekiah and the Babylonian exile.<sup>81</sup> A student of Gesenius, Wilhelm Vatke, to whom we will return later, denied any historical value of the book of Genesis<sup>82</sup> and argued that the laws of the Pentateuch revealed the unhistorical character of the Mosaic state.<sup>83</sup> The historical Moses was probably a prophet, but he did not write the Pentateuch.

In the course of the second half of the nineteenth century, the claim of Mosaic authenticity was given up by most, and the formation of the Pentateuch was dated between the time of the early monarchy and the Babylonian exile. Some scholars, however, dated the Pentateuch much later, as, for instance, Leopold Zunz (1794–1886),<sup>84</sup> who claimed that Leviticus was younger than Deuteronomy and Ezekiel and was written in the Second Temple period.<sup>85</sup> Specific evidence of the existence of a Pentateuch does not exist before the fourth century BCE.<sup>86</sup> T. Sørensen situated the formation of the Pentateuch in the context of 125 BCE, when John Hyrcanus ordered his publication for the synagogical cult.<sup>87</sup> The Pentateuch may incorporate some older sources, but sometimes what sounds archaic dovetails better with the Hellenistic period. This is the case, for instance, with the law of circumcision in Genesis 17 the historical context of which seems to be the time following Antiochus IV.<sup>88</sup> In France, M. Vernes<sup>89</sup> dated the oldest documents of the Hexateuch around 400 BCE (he dated Deuteronomy around 250) and its completion around 200 BCE.<sup>90</sup> In fact, most nineteenth-century scholars postulated the existence of a Hexateuch, prior to the truncated Pentateuch.

<sup>81</sup> *Forschungen* (1831), 643–676.

<sup>82</sup> *Theologie* (1835), 184.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.* 205.

<sup>84</sup> *Schriften* (1875). The first part of the article "*Bibelkritisches*" (217–70) had been published 1873 in *ZDMG* 27 (669–89). On Zunz, see N. N. GLATZER (ed.), *Leopold Zunz, Jude, Deutscher, Europäer; ein jüdisches Gelehrschicksal des 19. Jahrhunderts in Briefen an Freunde* (Tübingen 1964); HaCohen, *Reclaiming*, 195–97.

<sup>85</sup> *Schriften* (1875), 237.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.* 242.

<sup>87</sup> *Genesis* (1851), 24.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.* 146.

<sup>89</sup> For Vernes see P. CABANEL, "Un fils prodigue du protestantisme: Maurice Vernes (1845–1923) et l'histoire des religions", *Bulletin de la Société de l'histoire du protestantisme français* 149 (2003) 481–510.

<sup>90</sup> *Résultats* (1890), 181–204.

## 2.2. Hexateuch instead of Pentateuch

*Bibliography:* H. EWALD, *Geschichte des Volkes Israel bis Christus*, 1–6 (Göttingen 1843–1859); ET: *History of Israel* (London 1867–1886); “Review of J.J. Stähelin, *Kritische Untersuchungen über die Genesis* (1830)”, *ThStKr* (1831) 596–606. – A. GEDDES, *The Holy Bible, Or The Books Accounted Sacred By Jews And Christians; Otherwise Called The Books of the Old and New Covenants* (London 1792). – G.F. OEHLER, *Theologie des Alten Testaments. Erster Band: Einleitung und Mosaismus* (Tübingen 1873).

According to Houtman, the term “Hexateuch” appeared in biblical scholarship in the nineteenth century<sup>91</sup> – in fact already at the end of the eighteenth century – but it is difficult to know who invented it. Later, similar terms were coined, for example “Heptateuch” (Genesis–Judges), “Octateuch” (Genesis–Samuel) and “Enneateuch” (Genesis–Kings). The idea of a Hexateuch<sup>92</sup> probably emerged on the basis of two observations. First, the narrative coherence of the books of Genesis to Joshua seems greater than that of Genesis to Deuteronomy. The patriarchal narratives emphasize the promise of the land and this promise reaches its fulfilment only in the book of Joshua. The end of Deuteronomy clearly indicates a continuation as its last chapters (Deuteronomy 31 and 34) insist on the installation of Joshua as Moses’ successor who is in charge of accomplishing the conquest of the land. Also, the final discourse of Joshua, after the conquest and the distribution of the land, clearly concludes the narrative from the time of the Patriarchs to the entry into the land (Joshua 24). Second, there are stylistic links between the book of Joshua and the preceding books, especially Deuteronomy. In 1792, the first part of Alexander Geddes’ translation and introduction to the Bible contained the books of Genesis to Joshua. Geddes argued that the book of Joshua belonged to the Pentateuch since it stemmed from the same author and presented a necessary appendix to the rest of the narrative.<sup>93</sup> In a review of Stähelin’s book on Genesis (1831) and differently from his earlier position,<sup>94</sup> Ewald postulated an Elohistic document as the origin of the Pentateuch which contained a narrative starting with the creation of the world and ending with the conquest of Canaan, a Hexateuch of a sort. In his later *History of Israel*, however, Ewald postulated the existence of a “Great Book of Origins” that comprised the Pentateuch and the book of Joshua. This book resulted from the combination of numerous ancient fragments reworked and augmented by several “narrators”.<sup>95</sup> The original “story of origins” from creation to the conquest of the land did not comprise the book of Deuteronomy, which emerged during the reign of Manasseh. The Deuteronomistic character of many passages in Joshua could be explained by the reworking of the Joshua narrative by the author of

<sup>91</sup> Houtman, *Pentateuch* (1994), 3.

<sup>92</sup> The idea is, of course, much older than the use of the term in the academic discussion. See, for instance, the so-called “old English Hexateuch”, the translation of the books of Genesis to Joshua into Old English in the tenth or eleventh century.

<sup>93</sup> Bible (1792), xviii–xix.

<sup>94</sup> In his first book on the composition of the Genesis, Ewald had postulated one author for the whole book of the Genesis: H. EWALD, *Die Komposition der Genesis kritisch untersucht* (Braunschweig 1823).

<sup>95</sup> *Geschichte*, I (1843), 73–164; ET: 73–164.

Deuteronomy. The combination between Deuteronomy and the narrative in Genesis – Numbers and Joshua occurred between the seventh century and the fall of Jerusalem.

The idea of a Hexateuch is adopted by most theories about the formation of the first books of the Bible. Particularly in different variations of the documentary hypothesis, the book of Joshua is seen as the end of several of the documents combined in the Pentateuch. Even if the term "Pentateuch" is used, scholars adopt the idea that Joshua belonged to the first part of the Hebrew Bible. An example among many others can be found in Oehler's *Theology of the Old Testament*, where the Pentateuch (!) comprises four periods: the origins, the time after the Flood, the Patriarchs, and the time of Moses and Joshua.<sup>96</sup> The book of Joshua must be analyzed together with the Pentateuch, *weil das Buch in seinem ganzen schriftstellerischen Charakter wie seinen biblisch-theologischen Grundideen nach wesentlich mit dem Pentateuch zusammenhängt*.<sup>97</sup> The idea of a Hexateuch remained prevalent until the middle of the twentieth century<sup>98</sup> when Martin Noth's theory of a Deuteronomistic History (1943)<sup>99</sup> created, in fact, a Tetratauch (Genesis–Numbers) instead of a Hexateuch, because Deuteronomy and Joshua were now regarded as the introduction to a Deuteronomistic history. At the end of the twentieth century, when Noth's theory came under attack, the idea of an original Hexateuch was discussed once again.<sup>100</sup>

### 2.3. Theories about the Evolution of Israel's Religious Ideas

*Bibliography:* C. P. W. GRAMBERG, *Kritische Geschichte der Religionsideen des Alten Testaments*, 1. *Hierarchie und Cultus*; 2. *Theokratie und Prophetismus* (Berlin 1830). – J. F. L. GEORGE, *Die älteren jüdischen Feste, mit einer Kritik der Gesetzgebung des Pentateuch* (Berlin 1835). – L. PERLITT, *Vatke und Wellhausen: geschichtsphilosophische Voraussetzungen und historiographische Motive für die Darstellung der Religion und Geschichte Israels durch Wilhelm Vatke und Julius Wellhausen* (BZAW 94; Berlin 1965). – W. VATKE, *Die biblische Theologie wissenschaftlich dargestellt*, 1. *Die Religion des Alten Testaments* (Berlin 1835).

The elaboration of models to explain the formation of the Hebrew Bible and especially the Penta- or Hexateuch is closely related to ideas about the evolution of the Israelite religion.

Already de Wette was interested to reconstruct the evolution of ancient Israel

<sup>96</sup> *Theologie* (1873), 74–130.

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.* 72.

<sup>98</sup> Particularly influential was G. VON RAD, "Das formgeschichtliche Problem des Hexateuch (1938)", repr. *Gesammelte Studien zum Alten Testament* (ThB 8; Munich 1971), 9–86; ET: "The Form Critical Problem of the Hexateuch", *The Problem of the Hexateuch and Other Essays* (Edinburgh 1965), 1–78.

<sup>99</sup> M. NOTH, *Überlieferungsgeschichtliche Studien. Die sammelnden und bearbeitenden Geschichtswerke im Alten Testament* (1943) (Darmstadt 1967); ET: *The Deuteronomistic History* (JSOT.S 15; Sheffield 1991).

<sup>100</sup> See on this question: T. RÖMER, "How Many Books (teuchs): Pentateuch, Hexateuch, Deuteronomistic History, or Enneateuch?", *Pentateuch, Hexateuch, or Enneateuch? Identifying Literary Works in Genesis through Kings* (ed. T. B. Dozeman / T. Römer / K. Schmid; AIL 8; Atlanta, GA 2011), 25–42.

and its transition from "Hebraism" to "Judaism".<sup>101</sup> Carl Peter Wilhelm Gramberg (1797–1830),<sup>102</sup> a student of Gesenius who was influenced by de Wette, distinguished seven periods in the development of the Old Testament religion in his *Critical History of the Religious Ideas of the Old Testament* (*Kritische Geschichte der Religionsideen des Alten Testaments*, a work that he was not able to finish because of his early death).<sup>103</sup> The first period is reflected in the books of Genesis, Exodus, and Judges. These books, written in the time from David to Hezekiah, contain older oral sources and memories. The second period is represented by the books of Samuel and Ruth. They contain memories from the time of David but were written shortly before the Babylonian exile. The prophetic books of Isaiah 1–35\*, Hosea, Joel and others originated in the eighth and seventh centuries and were reworked somewhat later. The books of Leviticus and Numbers and Prophets like Jeremiah and Ezekiel represent the fourth period; they were compiled at the beginning of the Babylonian exile. The fifth stage is reflected in books like Kings, Deuteronomy, Joshua and Isaiah 40–66 that were compiled at the end of the Babylonian or the beginning of the Persian period. The redactors of the books of Kings insist on the central sanctuary, therefore the edition of Kings must date from the same period as Deuteronomy.<sup>104</sup> Gramberg thus advocates an exilic or early post-exilic date for the book of Deuteronomy. Joshua also implies knowledge of Deuteronomy (see 8:30–35). The sixth period, reflected in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, Haggai etc. is the time of the return from exile. The seventh and last stage, that covers the time from the end of the Persian period to Antiochus Epiphanes, can be detected in the books of Chronicles, Esther and Daniel. Contrary to de Wette and others, Gramberg was not interested in correlating these periods to an overall philosophical or theological idea of the evolution of religion. In a way, he considered his schema of the seven stages as "neutral" (*unparteyisch*) and objective.<sup>105</sup>

Johann Friedrich Leopold George (1811–1873)<sup>106</sup> in a study about the Israelite festivals made suggestions about the evolution of these festivals. He distinguished three main periods: an epic period, reflected by the narrative material of the Pentateuch; a lyrical period which can be detected in some of the legal material, especially in the book of Deuteronomy; finally the period of priestly hierarchy that developed after the Babylonian exile, reflected in the legal material from the books of Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers.<sup>107</sup> Contrary to de Wette, George demonstrated that the legal material in Exodus–Numbers is later than the book of Deuteronomy and anticipated the idea that the "priestly" texts in the Pentateuch are post-Deuteronomistic.<sup>108</sup> George's three-step model of the evolution of

<sup>101</sup> See above, 399.

<sup>102</sup> See Rogerson, *OT Criticism* (1984), 57–63.

<sup>103</sup> *Geschichte*, I (1830), xxv–xxvi (summary of the position he wants to develop in several volumes dealing with cult, political organization, prophecy, religious and ethical concepts).

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*, 146–47.

<sup>105</sup> *Geschichte*, II (1830), iv. See also Gesenius, who wrote the Preface in vol. I, ix–xiii.

<sup>106</sup> For a biography see A. HÄCKERMANN, "George, Leopold", *ABD* 8 (1878), 710–721 = [http://de.wikisource.org/wiki/ADB:George,\\_Leopold](http://de.wikisource.org/wiki/ADB:George,_Leopold) (22.6.2012).

<sup>107</sup> *Feste* (1835), 11–13.

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.* 12: *so haben wir in dem Deuteronomium die erste Zusammenfassung dieses allmählig Entwickelten. Nach dem Exil aber gab die Erneuerung der gottesdienstlichen Verfassung und die*

the Israelite religion, which tends toward centralization and priestly control, anticipates in an astonishing way Wellhausen's model,<sup>109</sup> in which J/E, D and P represent similar periods.

Unfortunately, George's work was overshadowed by Wilhelm Vatke's *Biblical Theology*, which was published in the same year and received a much broader reception, both positive and negative.<sup>110</sup> Vatke (1806–1882)<sup>111</sup> was strongly influenced by Hegelian philosophy,<sup>112</sup> which he exploited for an understanding of the evolution of the Israelite faith and religion by applying the idea of development according to which religion moves from the lower to the higher; yet he also based his thinking on de Wette, Gesenius and Gramberg.<sup>113</sup> Like the latter, Vatke divided the history of the Israelite religion into several periods, following the *Entwickelung der Alttestamentlichen Religion nach den kanonischen Büchern des A. T.*:<sup>114</sup> the time of Moses, the period of the Judges, the time of David and Solomon, the tenth and ninth centuries, the Assyrian era, the Chaldean era, the Persian period, the Macedonian and Maccabean era. These titles show that, for Vatke, historical information about the Israelite religion of some certainty is available only from the ninth century, even if there are historical reminiscences from the time of Moses<sup>115</sup> and the Judges. The time of the Judges corresponds to the transition from a nomadic to a settled lifestyle; the cult of Yahweh was simple and combined with the worship of other deities. Yhwh even received human sacrifices, a custom that continued during the monarchic period. The entire period up to the Assyrian era is characterized by polytheism and rudimentary ethics. Josiah's reform, which was not based on Deuteronomy that was written later,<sup>116</sup> represents a first step toward a more prophetic and ethical religion. The destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian exile trigger the transformation of "Hebraism" to "Judaism".<sup>117</sup> The laws and the cult are attributed to Moses, and new doctrines like that of resurrection emerge due to the contact with Babylonian and Persian beliefs. Vatke considers the Persian period as the *Blüte der Alttestamentlichen Religion*;<sup>118</sup> only the emergence of the *späteren Judenthum*, represented by the Sadduceans and Phariseans, brought the unity of the Old Tes-

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*Umgestaltung der Verhältnisse noch mehr Anlaß für die Gesetzgebung, und so wurden die früheren Bemühungen fortgesetzt in den Büchern Leviticus und Numeri. Und auch Exodus wurde durch Stücke vermehrt, die dieser Zeit angehören.*

<sup>109</sup> On the question of a direct influence see Rogerson, *OT Criticism* (1984), 64.

<sup>110</sup> Because of the intervention of Hengstenberg, Vatke never received a full professorship and was hindered to complete his *Theology* of which only the first volume appeared.

<sup>111</sup> C. BULTMANN, "Vatke, Wilhelm", *TRE* 34 (2002), 552–555.

<sup>112</sup> On this question see especially Peritt, Vatke, and also KRAUS, *Geschichte* (1982), 189–99.

<sup>113</sup> According to Rogerson, *OT Criticism* (1984), 71, "de Wette is referred to more than any other scholar".

<sup>114</sup> *Theologie* (1835), 177–599.

<sup>115</sup> The Patriarchal narratives only inform us that the Israelites were at the beginnings "rough nomads" worshipping stars and planets (*Theologie*, 184–185). They were not put down in writing before the time of the monarchy (455).

<sup>116</sup> *Theologie* (1835), 505.

<sup>117</sup> It may be noted, however, that for Vatke Judaism is the result of a long evolution, and a "strict separation" (*strenge Scheidung*) between Hebraism and Judaism seems impossible to him (*Theologie*, 551).

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.* 566.

tament to an end.<sup>119</sup> Interestingly, although he considers the Judaism of the Roman period as the end of true Old Testament religion, Vatke does not adopt a theory of decadence and degeneration. On the contrary, its apotheosis occurs in the Persian period. In this regard, Vatke's view differs from de Wette's, Gramberg's and especially Wellhausen's, even if the latter refers to Vatke's work as the most important contribution to the understanding of the history of Israel.<sup>120</sup> Vatke's book received – for different reasons – more critical than positive comments.<sup>121</sup> His emphasis on the Persian period, however, anticipated a trend in present Hebrew Bible scholarship.

The literary models explaining the formation of the Pentateuch that were developed during the nineteenth century were all, in a sense, related to ideas and theories about the evolution of the Israelite religion and its transformation into Judaism.

#### 2.4. Three Main Models to Explain the Formation of the Pentateuch: Fragment Hypothesis, Supplementary Hypothesis and Documentary Hypothesis

*Bibliography:* F. BLEEK, *De libri Geneseos origine atque indole historica observationes quaedam contra Bohlenium* (Bonn 1836). – T. K. CHEYNE, *Founders of Old Testament Criticism. Biographical, Descriptive and Critical Studies* (London 1893; repr. Jerusalem 1971). – J. W. COLENSO, *The Pentateuch and Book of Joshua Critically Examined*, 1–7 (London 1862–1879). – W. M. L. DE WETTE, *Lehrbuch der historisch-kritischen Einleitung in die kanonischen und apokryphen Bücher des Alten Testaments (neu bearbeitet von E. Schrader)* (Berlin 1869). – A. T. HARTMANN, *Historisch-kritische Forschungen über die Bildung, das Zeitalter und den Plan der fünf Bücher Mose's* (Rostock 1831). – H. HUPFELD, *Die Quellen der Genesis und die Art ihrer Zusammensetzung von neuem untersucht* (Berlin 1853). – K. D. ILGEN, *Die Urkunden des jerusalemischen Tempelarchivs in ihrer Urgestalt*, 1. *Die Urkunden des ersten Buchs von Moses in ihrer Urgestalt* (Halle 1798). – A. KNOBEL, *Die Genesis* (KEHAT 11; Leipzig 1852). – E. RIEHM, *Die Gesetzgebung Mosis im Lande Moab. Ein Beitrag zur Einleitung in's Alte Testament* (Gotha 1854). – B. SEIDEL, *Karl David Ilgen und die Pentateuchforschung im Umkreis der sogenannten Älteren Urkundenhypothese: Studien zur Geschichte der exegetischen Hermeneutik in der Späten Aufklärung* (BZAW 213; Berlin / New York 1993). – F. TUCH, *Kommentar über die Genesis* (Halle 1838). – J. VAN SETERS, *The Edited Bible. The Curious History of the "Editor" in Biblical Criticism* (Winona Lake, IN 2006).

<sup>119</sup> Ibid. 579

<sup>120</sup> J. WELLHAUSEN, *Geschichte Israels*, 1 (Berlin 1878), 4. In a letter of condolence, Wellhausen speaks of Vatke as the man from whom he had learnt the most, although he was a Hegelian (Perlitt, Vatke, 1965, 152).

<sup>121</sup> For the reactions of Hengstenberg, Nitzsch, Ewald and de Wette see Perlitt, Vatke (1965), 132–143. On the Jewish side, Salomon Ludwig Steinheim (1789–1866) wrote an entire book directed against Vatke, in 1840: S. L. STEINHEIM, *Die Offenbarung vom Standpunkte der höheren Kritik. Eine Prüfung der Darstellung des Herrn Professors W. Vatke in seiner Schrift: "Die Religion des Alten Testaments nach den kanonischen Büchern entwickelt"* (Kiel 1840), in which he appears, according to HaCohen, to be the "first Jewish thinker to explicitly point out the Christian bias in modern biblical criticism [...]. Interestingly, Steinheim identified the Christian bias of this approach specifically in the work of Vatke, who was not hostile toward the Law as so many other Christian scholars", *Reclaiming* (2010), 112–113.

Authors of "introductions to the Old Testament", when dealing with the history of Pentateuchal research, present three literary models to explain the formation of the first five books of the Bible, which emerged mainly in the nineteenth century and which were in competition: the documentary hypothesis, the supplementary hypothesis and the fragment hypothesis. The documentary hypothesis, which originated with Astruc and Witter already, postulates that the Pentateuch is the result of the combination of two or more documents that were originally independent from each other and that were put together by one or more redactor(s) in order to form the Pentateuch<sup>122</sup> in its present form.<sup>123</sup> The supplementary hypothesis considers that at the origin of the Pentateuch there was a narrative, which extended from the origins to Moses' death or the conquest; later hands subsequently inserted complements or fragments from other traditions. The fragment hypothesis regards the Pentateuch as the result of the combination of several fragments. The narrative frame of the Pentateuch is not original, it is the result of the combination of originally independent texts stemming from different traditions.

One often tries to classify the great names of nineteenth-century Pentateuch research based on their adherence to one of these three models, but this classification seems rather artificial. First, most scholars, beginning with de Wette, changed their minds in the course of time and, second, they often combined aspects from two or three of these hypotheses. This can already be observed for Astruc, who postulated that the two "memoires" A and B had been supplemented by an important number of fragments. It is also the case of Carl David Ilgen (1763–1834),<sup>124</sup> professor at the University of Jena which he left in 1802 for rather unclear reasons.<sup>125</sup> In his book on the documents of the Jerusalemite Temple archive of which only the first volume (dealing with the book of Genesis) appeared, Ilgen comes to the conclusion that the book of Genesis results from the compilation of 17 documents which were written down by three separate authors; two Elohist and one Jehovistic author. The first Elohist author (whom he calls "Sopher Eliel harishon") wrote ten documents, the second Elohist author ("Sopher Eliel hashsheni") five and the Jehovistic author ("Sopher Eliyah harishon") two. Ilgen leaves the dating of these three documents to further investigation, which has never been carried out.<sup>126</sup> A redactor combined these documents and, in doing so, truncated them in order to realize his compila-

<sup>122</sup> For commodity, we will use the term "Pentateuch", although many scholars imagine in fact an original Hexateuch, as shown above.

<sup>123</sup> In order to illustrate this hypothesis, scholars often quote the Diatessaron, the Gospel harmony, created in the second century by Tatian, see, for instance, G. F. MOORE, "Tatian's Diatessaron and the Analysis of the Pentateuch", *JBL* 9 (1890) 201–215, and H. DONNER, "Der Redaktor. Überlegungen zum vorkritischen Umgang mit der Heiligen Schrift", *Henoah* 2 (1980) 1–30.

<sup>124</sup> For his biography see Seidel, Ilgen (1993), 68–91, who provides further bibliographical references.

<sup>125</sup> According to Seidel, *ibid.* 90–92, the University of Jena was known for paying bad salaries to its professors, which is why Ilgen probably left for financial reasons.

<sup>126</sup> He insists on the idea that we should not look for the historical Moses whom we do not know, but concentrate on the "kerygmatic Moses"; he also thinks that the Pentateuch must have been edited before 285 (manuscript of his *Introduction to the Old Testament*, quoted by Seidel, Ilgen, 1993, 172–173).

tion. Yet this *Sammler* is not an author, but only a compiler<sup>127</sup>. Ilgen's rather complicated theory that did not find much support is nevertheless an interesting combination of the documentary and the fragmentary hypotheses.

Protagonists of the fragmentary hypothesis (the initiator of which is often said to be Alexander Geddes<sup>128</sup>) often acknowledged that the fragments were already combined in one way or another before redactors brought them together. In his early works, de Wette, influenced by Vater, accepted the idea that the Pentateuch is composed of an important number of fragments.<sup>129</sup> Yet these fragments had been incorporated into a basic framework.<sup>130</sup> Anton Theodor Hartmann (1774–1838), professor of theology at the University of Rostock, defended the fragmentary hypothesis, criticizing Astruc, Ilgen and others, who used the divine names "Elohim" and "Jehova" (the common spelling of the *tetragrammaton* in the first half of the nineteenth century).<sup>131</sup> He also seems to suggest a different development of the book of Genesis compared to the other four books of the Pentateuch; he insists on the *Ungleichartigkeit der schriftlichen Urkunden und die Verschiedenheit der Verfasser* in the different books of the Pentateuch (p.239). However, his long and often polemical analysis does not offer a clear model of the compilation of these different documents.

Heinrich Ewald (1803–1875)<sup>132</sup> is often said to be the pioneer of the supplementary hypothesis. In a way, he had a forerunner in de Wette, who in his *Beiträge* postulated the existence of a Hebrew national epic, covering the narrative from Genesis 1 to Exodus 20, which was later supplemented by different fragments. Ewald, professor in Göttingen and the teacher of Wellhausen – who, however, had a rather ambiguous opinion of his professor<sup>133</sup> – was very passionate about his scholarly and political convictions.<sup>134</sup> As outlined above (Sect. 2.2.) he also changed his views on the formation of the Pentateuch more than just once. In his review of Stähelin's book, he does not really postulate a Supplementary hypothesis.<sup>135</sup> The base document of the Hexateuch, according to him, was

<sup>127</sup> *Urkunden* (1798), 344.

<sup>128</sup> See, however, J. W. ROGERSON, "Was Geddes a 'Fragmentist'? In Search of the 'Geddes-Vater Hypothesis'", *The Bible and the Enlightenment. A Case Study – Dr Alexander Geddes (1737–1802)* (ed. W. Johnstone; JSOT.S 377; London / New York 2004), 157–167, who claims that Geddes never developed a clear theory, by postulating small units of oral tradition and claiming that they were written down only much later. According to VAN SETERS, *Edited Bible* (2006), 202, J.S. Vater should be considered the founder of the fragmentary hypothesis.

<sup>129</sup> *Beiträge*, II (1807 / 1971), 311.

<sup>130</sup> *Ibid.* 29.

<sup>131</sup> *Forschungen* (1831), 86–99.

<sup>132</sup> For biographical information see CHEYNE, *Founders* (1893), 66–118; L. PERLITT, "Heinrich Ewald. Der Gelehrte in der Politik", in: *Theologie in Göttingen, eine Vorlesungsreihe* (ed. B. Müller; Göttingen 1987), 157–212; Rogerson, *OT Criticism* (1984), 91–103.

<sup>133</sup> In J. WELLHAUSEN, "Heinrich Ewald (1901)", in: *Grundrisse zum Alten Testament* (ThB 27; Munich 1965), 120–138, he describes him as being a major obstacle to progress in biblical research, as made by Wette and Vatke (131–32), and as a teacher without pedagogical skills, who presented the results of his own research without any further arguments (120).

<sup>134</sup> He belonged to the "Seven of Göttingen" who in 1837 protested against King August, who suspended the liberal constitution of Hanover. In 1867, when Göttingen became Prussian, he refused the loyalty oath to the Prussian king and was deprived of the *venia legendi*. In 1874, he was imprisoned for three weeks for having insulted Otto von Bismarck.

<sup>135</sup> Ewald, *Review of Stähelin* (see 2.2.).



an "Elohistic document" which was combined with a "Jehovistic document"; the redactor used the Elohist document as a basis to which he added fragments from the Jehovistic document. Ewald was not sure, however, whether the Jehovist, the author of the Jehovistic document, edited the Elohist base narrative (*Grundschrift*). According to that model, there was only one narrative that one or more redactor(s) supplemented. While Ewald, in 1831, remained close to the assumptions of the classical documentary hypothesis,<sup>136</sup> other scholars elaborated a more precise supplementary hypothesis.

Friedrich Bleek (1793–1859) and Friedrich Tuch (1806–1867), criticizing both the fragmentary hypothesis<sup>137</sup> and the documentary hypothesis, developed the idea of one "document" and one "Supplementer" (*Ergänzer*). For Tuch,<sup>138</sup> the Jehovist was clearly the redactor of the *Elohimquelle*,<sup>139</sup> and the Pentateuch, with the exception of the book of Deuteronomy, was the result of this Jehovistic reworking.<sup>140</sup> August Knobel advocated the same position: The Elohist document had been edited by the Jehovist, who may also have had written documents and oral traditions at his disposal.<sup>141</sup> This relatively simple model (one narrative, one reviser and the book of Deuteronomy) has recently been defended by J. Van Seters according to whom a Jahwistic History was supplemented by a priestly redactor, who also inserted the book of Deuteronomy.<sup>142</sup>

The initiator of the so-called "newer documentary hypothesis" (in opposition to the "older" documentary hypothesis that postulated the existence of only two parallel documents) was probably Hermann Hupfeld (1796–1866), professor in Marburg and later successor of Gesenius in Halle.<sup>143</sup> In his book *The Sources of Genesis and the Manner of Their Conflation* (*Die Quellen der Genesis und die Art ihrer Zusammensetzung*, 1853), he tried to demonstrate that within the "Elohistic texts" one has to distinguish two documents: the older Elohist source (*Urschrift*),<sup>144</sup> which contains the narrative reaching from the origins of the world to the conquest of the land, and a second Elohist source, which contains mainly the patriarchal narratives.<sup>145</sup> The third and youngest document is the "Jhivistic"<sup>146</sup> source.<sup>147</sup> These three sources were all originally independent and

<sup>136</sup> Houtman, *Pentateuch* (1994), 94–95.

<sup>137</sup> Bleek's book is a refutation of Peter von Bohlen, an advocate of the fragmentary hypothesis.

<sup>138</sup> *Genesis* (1838), LI–XCVIII.

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.* LXV, LXXVIII.

<sup>140</sup> A conservative variant of the supplementary hypothesis can be found in FRANZ DELITZSCH, *Die Genesis* (Leipzig, 21853), who situates the Jehovistic redactor in the time of Joshua. In the fifth edition of his commentary, he adopted the documentary hypothesis. For an intellectual biography see S. WAGNER, *Franz Delitzsch. Leben und Werk* (Munich 1978; 21991).

<sup>141</sup> Knobel, *Genesis* (1852), XIII: *Dabei ist er theils anderen älteren Schriften, welche ihm als Quelle dienten [...], theils der im Volke geltenden Sage [...], theils seiner eigenen Voraussetzung und Vermuthung gefolgt.*

<sup>142</sup> See, for instance, J. VAN SETERS, *The Pentateuch. A Social Science Commentary* (Trajectories; Sheffield 1999).

<sup>143</sup> On Hupfeld see CHEYNE, *Founders* (1893), 149–155; Rogerson, *OT Criticism* (1984), 131–34; O. KAISER, *Zwischen Reaktion und Revolution: Hermann Hupfeld (1796–1866) – ein deutsches Professorenleben* (AAWG. Ph.-H. Klasse, III/268; Göttingen 2005).

<sup>144</sup> *Quellen* (1853), 6–38.

<sup>145</sup> *Ibid.* 38–56, 167–95.

<sup>146</sup> Hupfeld uses this term, close to the *tetragrammaton*, instead of the common "Jehovist".

<sup>147</sup> *Quellen* (1853), 56–79, 101–67.

were brought together by a redactor<sup>148</sup> who acted “in strict fidelity” and “inserted his sources verbatim and in full and brought them together retaining all of their peculiarities”, but who also paid attention to the “overall structure of the narrative in order to avoid obvious repetitions or contradictions [...] reproducing on an expanded scale in the complete work the (epic) plan of the history inhering in the sources”.<sup>149</sup> With the support of his student Eduard Riehm (1830–1888)<sup>150</sup> – who, in a monograph, dated the book of Deuteronomy to the time of Manasseh<sup>151</sup> and described its intention as a modernization of the ancient Law – Hupfeld opened the way to the four-document hypothesis. By frequently using the term “Deuteronomist”, Riehm shaped the idea that Deuteronomy could be considered a fourth document, completing the three sources identified by Hupfeld; and Hupfeld’s distinction of two “Elohists” prepared the later distinction between a priestly source (Hupfeld’s *Urschrift* of the Pentateuch) and a (more fragmentary) Elohist source. However, the combination of different models remained common among scholars. Even Hupfeld admitted that some cases – as, for instance, the tribal list in Genesis 29–30 – can best be explained with a supplementary hypothesis.<sup>152</sup>

A combination of models is also advocated by the older de Wette or better by his reviser, Schrader. In the eighth edition of his critical introduction (revised by Schrader), we read<sup>153</sup> that the right insight into the formation of the Pentateuch can only be gained through a combination of all three hypotheses, “especially the combination of the documentary and the supplementary hypothesis, in imagining that the Hexateuch (Gen 1–Josh 24) originated from two main documents: the document of the annalistic narrator and the document of the theocratic narrator. A third one, the prophetic narrator, combined those, not only in putting them together, but also [...] by adding texts stemming either from written documents or from oral tradition”.<sup>154</sup> Similarly, John William Colenso accepted the idea that a younger Elohist should be distinguished from the main Elohist; yet the younger Elohist (which he identified with the Jehovist) and the Jehovist (which he labelled Second Jehovist) should not be considered to be independent documents, but supplements to the first Elohist.<sup>155</sup> Colenso also thought that one should distinguish at least four stages in the work of the Jehovist, which reminds of Wellhausen’s idea that J should be split into J<sup>1</sup>, J<sup>2</sup>, J<sup>3</sup>, etc.

A close examination of nineteenth-century Pentateuchal research reveals that until the victory of the Kuenen-Wellhausen model, scholars tended to combine ideas and observations from the three explanatory models available to them.

<sup>148</sup> *Ibid.* 195–213.

<sup>149</sup> *Ibid.* 196. English translation taken from Van Seters, *Edited Bible* (1999), 222. According to him, Hupfeld based himself on the model of the “edited” Homeric epic and had in mind “a historian who is editing his sources in a diplomatic style [...] it is this earliest description of the function of the Pentateuchal redactor that has persisted throughout its subsequent use” (222).

<sup>150</sup> For the importance of Riehm, see Kaiser, Hupfeld (2005), 225–231.

<sup>151</sup> *Gesetzgebung* (1854), 96–105.

<sup>152</sup> *Quellen* (1853), 43–44.

<sup>153</sup> This statement may indeed come from Schrader, who indicates in the foreword, that he has entirely revised the paragraphs on the formation of the Pentateuch: *Lehrbuch* (1817), VIII–IX.

<sup>154</sup> *Ibid.* 313.

<sup>155</sup> *Pentateuch*, Pt. 5, 180–183. On his model see also Rogerson, *OT Criticism* (1984), 228–237.

### 3. Critical Investigation on the Formation of the Former and Latter Prophets

#### 3.1. *The theory of Deuteronomistic Redactions in the Books of Joshua – Kings*

*Bibliography:* H. AUSLOOS, "John William Colenso (1814–1883) and the Deuteronomist", *RB* 113 (2006) 372–397. – H. EWALD, *Geschichte des Volkes Israel bis Christus*, 6 vols (Göttingen 1843–1859; 1883); ET: *History of Israel* (London 1867–1886). – T. RÖMER / A. DE PURY, "Deuteronomistic Historiography (DH): History of Research and Debated Issues", *Israel Constructs Its History. Deuteronomistic History in Recent Research* (ed. A. de Pury / T. Römer / J.-D. Macchi; JSOT.S 306; Sheffield 2000), 24–141.

As we have pointed out, de Wette had recognized the Deuteronomistic character of the book of Joshua,<sup>156</sup> thus preparing the idea of "Deuteronomistic" redactions elsewhere in the Pentateuch or in the Former Prophets.<sup>157</sup> The idea of "Deuteronomism" was taken further by H. Ewald in his *History of Israel*. We have seen that he advocated a Hexateuch by postulating a "Great Book of Origins" (Genesis – Joshua). He considered the following books, Judges – Kings, as having constituted the "Great Book of Kings". This "book" contained different documents from the time of Saul and the monarchy, and was compiled in accordance with "Deuteronomic ideas" (*deuteronomische Ansichten*).<sup>158</sup> 1 Samuel 12 shows that this Deuteronomic editor must still have worked in the time of the Davidic monarchy, and the period of Josiah offers a plausible setting. This "last but one" (*vorletzter*) editor was followed by the final, a second Deuteronomic editor who revised the older edition during the second half of the Babylonian exile: "one final author or collector edited the present Books of Judges, Ruth, Samuel and Kings as a whole".<sup>159</sup> This exilic editor sets out to answer the question why the people had to undergo the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile. Interestingly, Martin Noth was to conceive the project of the Deuteronomist in similar terms.

But Ewald also admitted a Deuteronomistic reworking of the "Great Book of Origins" and attributed it to the sixth stage of the edition of Genesis – Joshua. The work of this Deuteronomist, who wrote at the time of Josiah, corresponds largely to the book of Deuteronomy, as well as much of Joshua (this is probably due to de Wette's influence). This redactor knew the books of Genesis – Numbers, too, and "he also drew largely upon many documents, both of a narrative and a legislative character, which are now entirely lost".<sup>160</sup> The work of the Deuteronomist, responsible for the editing of Deuteronomy and Joshua, was linked

<sup>156</sup> Beiträge, I, 137, n. 2

<sup>157</sup> Kraus, *Geschichte*, 176.

<sup>158</sup> *History I*, 133–168.

<sup>159</sup> *Ibid.* 160

<sup>160</sup> *Ibid.* 125–126. According to Van Seters, *Edited Bible*, the idea of widespread literacy and the collection of ancient works is an "unconscious anachronism reflecting the influence of the Renaissance and early modern period" (217).

with the books of Genesis – Exodus (compiled by the fifth narrator<sup>161</sup>) by the last compiler and editor of the Hexateuch, whose fundamental contribution was to conflate documents: “He left the work of the Fifth narrator exactly as he found it, up to the section, shortly before the death of Moses, to which the chief portion of the Deuteronomist’s work could suitably be attached. But since the latter ... had written the life of Joshua very briefly, the editor proceeded, after the death of Moses on a freer plan, uniting the more detailed narrative given by the older work with the essential contents of the Deuteronomist’s, and so blending the two works completely into one. It was certainly this last editor who inserted the Blessing of Moses (Deut. xxxiii).”<sup>162</sup> In speaking of a last editor of the Hexateuch, Ewald anticipated the idea of a last redaction of the Penta- or Hexateuch, which in current scholarship plays an important role yet again.<sup>163</sup>

Curiously, Ewald sharply distinguished between the two Deuteronomists of the Hexateuch (the sixth narrator and the final editor) and the two Deuteronomists (from the time of Josiah and the time of the Babylonian exile) of the books of Judges. Ewald realized that Judg 2:6–23, stemming from the exilic Deuteronomists, opens with a passage (2:6–10) parallel to Josh 24:28–33. He conceded that this passage constituted a link of a sort, yet he did not admit the idea of an Enneateuch, or the idea that the exilic editor of the “Great Book of Kings” might have wished to join his work to the Pentateuch and the book of Joshua.<sup>164</sup> Although his ideas of the relation between Gen – Josh and Judg – Kgs remain somewhat unclear, Ewald anticipated a trend in Deuteronomistic research: Wellhausen adopted the idea of a Josianic Deuteronomistic edition of the books of Samuel and Kings,<sup>165</sup> and scholarship in the second part of the twentieth century was strongly influenced by the work of Frank Moore Cross, who advocated the double redaction of the Deuteronomistic History, with the same dating (Josianic and exilic) as Ewald<sup>166</sup> and made it the major explanatory model for the formation of the Prophets in North America until today.<sup>167</sup>

Another major player in the research on Deuteronomism is John William Colenso (1814–1883), the first Anglican Bishop of Natal in the British Colony of South Africa where he protested against the treatment of the native population by British authorities. His refusal to teach the doctrine of hell and eternal damna-

<sup>161</sup> Who precedes the sixth narrator, the Deuteronomist, and resembles Wellhausen’s “Jehovist” (the compiler of J and E).

<sup>162</sup> History, I, 130.

<sup>163</sup> T. RÖMER / K. SCHMID (eds.), *Les dernières rédactions du Pentateuque, de l’Hexateuque et de l’Ennéateuque* (BETHL 203; Leuven 2007).

<sup>164</sup> For more details on Ewald’s view about the relation of the Deuteronomistic editions of Gen – Josh and Judg – Kgs, see Römer / de Pury, *Deuteronomistic Historiography* (2000), 35–38.

<sup>165</sup> J. WELHAUSEN, *Die Composition des Hexateuchs und der historischen Bücher des Alten Testaments* (Berlin 1899; repr. 1963), 262–263. Contrary to Ewald, Wellhausen is not sure whether the Deuteronomistic redactions in Samuel and Kings belonged to the same editors, but he thinks that this question is not relevant (“gleichgiltig”, p. 301).

<sup>166</sup> F. M. CROSS, “The Themes of the Book of Kings and the Structure of the Deuteronomistic History”, *Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic. Essays in the History of the Religion of Israel* (Cambridge, MA 1973), 274–289.

<sup>167</sup> Van Seters, *Edited Bible*, 220, points out that the very conservative position of Ewald, who insisted on the historical value of the traditions of his two “Great Books”, found a successor in William F. Albright and his school.

tion to newly converted Christians led him to re-examine the Bible and propose highly critical results. His publications on the Pentateuch and Joshua sparked strong reactions in England, with opponents to his theories attempting to defend the historical reliability of the first books of the Bible.<sup>168</sup>

In the six volumes of his publication, Colenso was one of the first to systematize the question of a Deuteronomistic edition of the Hexateuch. In Part III, he distinguished the original edition of the Book of Deuteronomy, which he (like others) thought to have been written by the prophet Jeremiah<sup>169</sup> and which he dated to the time of Josiah, from later additions to the book made by the Deuteronomist. Colenso also listed expressions in Deuteronomy used by the Deuteronomist but not occurring in the first books of the Pentateuch.<sup>170</sup> He argued, on the basis of linguistic evidence, that the books of a Genesis – Numbers also underwent a redaction by the exilic Deuteronomist.<sup>171</sup> Those Deuteronomistic passages are “smaller ones in Genesis, but longer ones in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Joshua”.<sup>172</sup>

The question of the existence of one or more Deuteronomistic redactions of the Pentateuch has been discussed again since the 1970s, leading numerous scholars to abandon the documentary hypothesis as it was held by Kuenen and Wellhausen, because it was unable to explain the “Deuteronomistic” elements in the Tetrteuch.<sup>173</sup>

### 3.2. Source and Redaction Criticism in the Latter Prophets

*Bibliography:* U. BECKER, “Der Jesaja-Kommentar von Wilhelm Gesenius”, *Biblische Exegese und hebräische Lexikographie. Das ‘Hebräisch-deutsche Handwörterbuch’ von Wilhelm Gesenius als Spiegel und Quelle alttestamentlicher und hebräischer Forschung, 200 Jahre nach seiner ersten Auflage* (ed. S. Schorch / E.-J. Waschke; BZAW 427; Berlin/Boston, forthcoming). – B. DUHM, *Das Buch Jesaja* (HKAT III/1; Göttingen 1892); *Das Buch Jeremia* (KHC.AT XI; Tübingen, Leipzig 1901). – H. EWALD, *Die Propheten des Alten Bundes*, 2 vols (Stuttgart 1840–1841; <sup>2</sup>1867). – F. H. W. GESENIUS, *Philologisch-kritischer und historischer Commentar über den Jesaja*, 2 vols (Leipzig 1821; <sup>2</sup>1829).

The question of a Deuteronomistic redaction began to concern also the treatment of the Prophetic books, especially the book of Jeremiah. The links between the book of Jeremiah and the Deuteronomistic passages in the Pentateuch and the Former Prophets, as observed by Colenso and others, received a redaction-critical explanation in Bernhard Duhm’s (1847–1928)<sup>174</sup> commentary of 1901. In this

<sup>168</sup> J. A. DRAPER (ed.), *The Eye of the Storm: Bishop John William Colenso and the Crisis of Biblical Inspiration* (JSOT.S 386; London 2003).

<sup>169</sup> Pentateuch III, 410. See also Pentateuch I, 367. This idea is based on the right observation that the Deuteronomistic style also occurs in the book of Jeremiah. This should probably be explained by the theory of a Deuteronomistic redaction of the book of Jeremiah (see below).

<sup>170</sup> Pentateuch, III, 402.

<sup>171</sup> See on this Ausloos, Colenso (2006), who provides a useful list of all the texts that Colenso considered to be “Deuteronomistic”.

<sup>172</sup> Pentateuch, I, 367. The observation, that Genesis is much less “Deuteronomistic” than Exodus and Numbers plays a major role in present Pentateuchal research as well.

<sup>173</sup> See on this de Pury / Römer, *Pentateuque en question* (1991), 48–50, 58–62.

<sup>174</sup> On Duhm see Smend, *Alttestamentler*, 114–128.

commentary, Duhm attributed no more than some 60 brief oracles to the historical Jeremiah. He then postulated the existence of a "biography of Jeremiah" in Jer 26–29 and 32–45. The main parts of the book (about 850 verses) are due to Deuteronomistic reworking,<sup>175</sup> which can easily be recognized by their style, including repetitions and theological platitudes.<sup>176</sup> Duhm postulated that "the book has slowly expanded, like a forest growing wildly",<sup>177</sup> and that the Deuteronomistic scribes, whom he did not like very much (sometimes he refers to them as "Pharisees"), worked on the book from the Babylonian to the Maccabean period. In a way, Duhm's commentary presents the achievements of the critical analysis of the Prophetic books in the nineteenth century.

Nineteenth-century biblical scholarship on the Prophets was mainly characterized by the search for the *ipsisima verba* of the Prophets, as well as by the idealistic and Protestant concept of the prophets representing a spiritual and ethic religion. The commentary on the book of Isaiah by Wilhelm Gesenius (the first part of which was published 1820) is exceptional in this context, as Gesenius showed himself to be more interested in philological and historical questions. As pointed out by U. Becker, Gesenius wished to contribute with this work to a profane reconstruction of Jewish history, by adopting a "comparative" approach.<sup>178</sup> Although Gesenius himself was more interested in "lower" criticism, his commentary contributed decisively to the "higher criticism" of the book. He accepted the fact that chapters 40–66 are not to be attributed to the prophet of the eighth century.<sup>179</sup> But in Proto-Isaiah, numerous passages are also due to later authors: Isaiah 13–14; 21; 24–27; 34–35; 36–39.<sup>180</sup> Chapters 24–27 clearly indicate the historical context in which they were composed, which is the end of the Babylonian period: *Das Land Juda und Jerusalem sind verwüstet (24,1–12. 27,10,11), die Juden zerstreut (24,14–16). Der Sturz Babels steht aber als nahe bevor.*<sup>181</sup> The book of Isaiah is the result of the compilation of smaller collections<sup>182</sup> that were all attributed to the prophet. A first collection from the time of the exilic period ended in chapter 35, to which chapters 36–39 (excerpted

<sup>175</sup> The idea that the book of Jeremiah grew in three main stages, "Jeremiah" – "Baruch" – "Redactor", can also be found in the commentary of F. GIESEBRECHT, *Das Buch Jeremia und die Klagenlieder Jeremiae* (HKAT III/2; Göttingen 1894; <sup>2</sup>1907).

<sup>176</sup> See for instance his comments on the passage of the new covenant in Jer 31:31–34.

<sup>177</sup> Jeremia (1901), xx.

<sup>178</sup> Becker, "Gesenius", manuscript, p. 3. I would like to thank my colleague for having permitted the use of his manuscript before publication.

<sup>179</sup> The theory of a "Second Isaiah" emerged in the eighteenth century in the works of Döderlein (1775) and Eichhorn (1783) quoted by Gesenius, *Jesaja* (1821) I, 17. It was still refuted in the second half of the nineteenth century by F. Delitzsch, *Biblischer Commentar über den Prophet Jesaja* (Leipzig 1866); ET: *Biblical Commentary on the Prophecies of Isaiah* (Edinburgh 1867).

<sup>180</sup> *Jesaja*, I, 16–17. Gesenius mainly wants to distinguish two authors and attributes chapters 13–14; 21; 24–27; 34–35 to a "Pseudo-Isaiah". Contrary to many of his colleagues, Gesenius did not express a negative view on the later additions to the book, which belong (especially chapters 40–55) to the "most important and attractive passages of the Old Testament" (*Jesaja*, II (1829), 1; see Becker, "Gesenius", 4).

<sup>181</sup> *Jesaja*, I, 757.

<sup>182</sup> Gesenius (*Jesaja* I, 18–23) distinguishes four books: 1–12 (mostly authentic oracles); 13–23 (oracles against the nations with some non-authentic interpolations); 24–35 (authentic oracles from the time of Hezekiah in 28–33, framed by passages from the exilic period: 24–27 and 34–35, to which a "collector" added 36–39 from the books of Kings), 40–66 (added to the book only in postexilic times).

from the books of Kings) were added to conclude the book (in the same way as Jeremiah 52, which is also a summary taken from Kings).<sup>183</sup> Chapters 40–66 were added to the book of Isaiah only later, probably in the Persian period.<sup>184</sup> Gesenius anticipated numerous developments, which were taken up by B. Duhm<sup>185</sup> at the end of the century as well as by many scholars in the twentieth century,<sup>186</sup> which makes his commentary a true milestone in the history of research on the Prophets.

Contrary to Isaiah and Jeremiah, the book of Ezekiel remained somewhat excluded from "higher criticism" in the nineteenth century, probably because of its relatively homogenous style. Ewald observed rightly that the formation of the book comprised several stages: chapters 40–48 were written later than the majority of the other texts (only 29:17–21 is later). Contrary to the other passages of the book, this vision of the new temple reflects a "priesterliche-ängstliche Farbe ... und Gedanken ... die dem übrigen Buche völlig fremd sind".<sup>187</sup> Nevertheless all the parts of the book were, despite their differences, written by Ezekiel, who was more of a writer than a prophet,<sup>188</sup> in different situations of his life. A notable exception is the Jewish scholar L. Zunz, who considered the book to be a pseudepigraph from the second half of the fifth century,<sup>189</sup> a position that was later adopted by Torrey and, more recently, by J. Becker and U. Feist.<sup>190</sup> Most of the redaction-critical work on the book of Ezekiel was carried out in the twentieth century, and the same holds true for the Twelve Minor Prophets. Ewald elaborated a theory on the formation of the Book of the Twelve.<sup>191</sup> The

<sup>183</sup> Jesaja, I, 952–956.

<sup>184</sup> Gesenius advances an interesting argument: originally as attested in the Talmud, Isaiah stood after Jeremiah and Ezekiel, which were considered to be canonical earlier than Isaiah (Jesaja, I, 22–23 with footnote 38).

<sup>185</sup> In Jesaja (1892), 7–22, he distinguishes five main stages in the formation of the book: a first collection edited by the prophet himself, other collections added by his disciples, redactions during the exilic period, edition of a book of Isaiah in the fourth century BCE, final edition under the Hasmoneans.

<sup>186</sup> See the short summary in J. VERMEYLEN, *Du prophète Isaïe à l'apocalyptique. Isaïe, I–XXXV, miroir d'un demi-millénaire d'expérience religieuse en Israël* (Etudes bibliques, Paris 1977–1978), 4–30.

<sup>187</sup> Propheten, II (1841), 218.

<sup>188</sup> Ibid. 207. A similar view is defended by F. HITZIG, *Der Prophet Ezechiel* (KEHAT 8; Leipzig 1847), professor in Zürich, who also wrote commentaries on Jeremiah and the Twelve. With the exception of some glosses, the book was the result of Ezekiel's scribal skills (viii–xvi). In his edition of the Bible, E. Reuss held a similar view, admitting only minor glosses and scribal errors, see J. M. VINCENT, "Eduard Reuss' Auslegung des Ezechielbuches in La Bible", *Altes Testament. Forschung und Wirkung. Festschrift für Henning Graf Reventlow* (ed. P. Mommer / W. Thiel; Frankfurt/Main 1994), 369–382, 375–376.

<sup>189</sup> *Bibelkritisches* (1873), 226–233. In *Die gottesdienstlichen Vorträge der Juden, historisch entwickelt: ein Beytrag zur Alterthumskunde und biblischen Kritik zur Literatur- und Religionsgeschichte* (Berlin 1832; Frankfurt/Main 2 1892), 157–162, he advocated, followed by A. Geiger, the early Persian period.

<sup>190</sup> C. C. TORREY, *Pseudo-Ezekiel and the Original Prophecy* (Yale Oriental Series. Researches 18; New Haven/London 1930); J. BECKER, "Erwägungen zur ezechielschen Frage", *Künder des Wortes. FS J. Schreiner* (ed. L. Ruppert / P. Weimar / E. Zenger; Würzburg 1982), 137–149; U. FEIST, *Ezechiel: das literarische Problem des Buches forschungsgeschichtlich betrachtet* (BWANT 138; Stuttgart et al. 1995).

<sup>191</sup> Propheten I, 60–62, and, more detailed, in the second edition of 1867, 74–82. See also J. WÖHRLE, *Der Abschluss des Zwölfprophetenbuches: buchübergreifende Redaktionsprozesse in den späten Sammlungen* (BZAW 389; Berlin/New York 2008), 2–3.

individual books of the Twelve, like Joel, Amos, etc., were, however, all written by the prophets themselves (with very few exceptions). “Higher Criticism” on the Prophets started in the nineteenth century with research carried out on Isaiah.

#### 4. On the Way to Wellhausen: Reuss, Popper, Graf and the Invention of a Postmonarchic Priestly Document

*Bibliography:* K. BUDDÉ (ed.), *Eduard Reuss' Briefwechsel mit seinem Schüler und Freunde Karl Heinrich Graf: zur Hundertjahrfeier seiner Geburt* (Giessen 1904). – J. CONRAD, *Karl Heinrich Graf's Arbeit am Alten Testament. Studien zu einer wissenschaftlichen Biographie* (ed. U. Becker; BZAW 425; Berlin/Boston 2011). – K. H. GRAF, *Die geschichtlichen Bücher des Alten Testaments: zwei historisch-kritische Untersuchungen* (Leipzig 1866); “Die sogenannte Grundschrift des Pentateuch”, *Archiv für die wissenschaftliche Erforschung des Alten Testaments* 1 (1869) 466–477. – J.-G. HEINTZ, “Edouard Reuss, Karl Heinrich Graf et le Pentateuque”, *RHPbR* 71 (1991) 443–457. – A. KAYSER, *Das vorexilische Buch der Urgeschichte Israels und seine Erweiterungen* (Strasbourg 1874). – S. R. KÜLLING, *Zur Datierung der 'Genesis-P-Stücke', namentlich des Kapitels Genesis XVII* (Kampen 1964). – T. NÖLDEKE, *Untersuchungen zur Kritik des Alten Testaments* (Kiel 1869). – J. POPPER, *Der biblische Bericht über die Stiftshütte: ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Composition und Diaskeue des Pentateuch* (Leipzig 1862). – Y. SHAVIT / M. ERAN, *The Hebrew Bible Reborn. From Holy Scripture to the Book of Books: a History of Biblical Culture and the Battles over the Bible in Modern Judaism* (Studia Judaica 38; Berlin/New York 2007). – R. J. THOMPSON, *Moses and the Law in a Century of Criticism since Graf* (VT.S 19; Leiden 1970). – J. M. VINCENT, *Leben und Werk des frühen Eduard Reuss: ein Beitrag zu den geistesgeschichtlichen Voraussetzungen der Bibelkritik im zweiten Viertel des 19. Jahrhunderts* (BEvTh. 106; Munich 1990).

The documentary hypothesis and the supplementary hypothesis postulated an Elohist document that formed the basis of the Penta- or Hexateuch (*Grundschrift*) and two which belonged to “priestly” texts like the construction of the sanctuary in the second part of the book of Exodus, ritual laws in the book of Leviticus, but also texts like the institution of circumcision (Gen 17) or the Sabbath (Exod 16). Hupfeld's idea that the Elohist document should be split into two independent sources did not change his view that the oldest document contained priestly legislation (see above).

The idea that the “priestly” laws and narratives are later than the oldest document of the Pentateuch was brought forward by Edouard Guillaume Eugène Reuss (1804–1891),<sup>192</sup> professor at Strasbourg, and Karl Heinrich Graf (1815–1869), his student, who never obtained a chair and worked as a teacher of French and Hebrew in Meissen.<sup>193</sup> During his entire life Graf remained very close to Reuss as attested by the abundant correspondence between the two. Reuss claimed that he had come up with the idea that the Law was later than the Prophets as early as 1833, and that he had made it public in his lectures of 1834, but that he had refrained from publishing it because it was contradictory to the exe-

<sup>192</sup> Reuss studied in Germany and his teachers were Eichhorn and Gesenius. He had a very positive attitude to German biblical research and to Germany in general, which is why he remained professor after the annexation of Alsace by Germany. For his life and work see Vincent, *Leben*, and E. JACOB, “Edouard Reuss, un théologien indépendant”, *RHPbR* 71 (1991) 427–435.

<sup>193</sup> On his rather tragic life see Conrad, *Graf* (2011), 15–72.



getical mainstream.<sup>194</sup> It is quite possible that Graf heard of this idea when he attended classes with Reuss in Strasbourg. Reuss observed that the Laws in the middle books of the Pentateuch were unknown to the Prophets. Those laws do not fit into the time of the monarchy, but rather into the context of the Babylonian exile or later. Reuss also predicted that the view that Leviticus was later than Deuteronomy would soon become a widely accepted idea in Pentateuchal research.<sup>195</sup> Indeed, Graf always recognized that it was his teacher Reuss from whom he adopted the view that the priestly legislation of the Pentateuch belonged to the youngest texts of the Pentateuch.<sup>196</sup> Before turning to Graf, however, we should emphasize that the idea of a late (exilic or postexilic) date of the priestly laws of the Pentateuch had been "in the air" since the 1830s.

Wilhelm Vatke claimed in 1835 that Ezekiel ignored major parts of the legislation of the books of Exodus and Leviticus, which were probably only composed in the exilic period.<sup>197</sup> George defended the same idea, arguing that the ritual laws in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers were written in Babylonian times, later than the Deuteronomic laws.<sup>198</sup> At the same time, Peter von Bohlen also observed that there was no evidence that the priestly laws of the Pentateuch had been observed before the time of the exile.<sup>199</sup>

A major contribution was made by the work of the Jewish scholar Julius Popper (1822–1884) who, in 1862, published a monograph on *The Biblical Account of the Tabernacle* in which he compared the building instructions (Exod 25–31) with the account of the building work (Exod 35–40). The linguistic and logical differences between the two accounts led Popper to postulate that several chapters of the second description stemmed from a later redaction that was carried out in the third century BCE.<sup>200</sup> Popper did not determine whether all priestly laws of the so-called *Grundschrift* belonged to the postexilic period,<sup>201</sup> but in attributing parts of the account of the Tabernacle to the postexilic period, Popper

<sup>194</sup> Vincent, Reuss (1990), 256–262.

<sup>195</sup> Reuss published this idea only in 1850 in an encyclopaedia article: E. REUSS, "Judenthum", *Allgemeine Enzyklopädie der Wissenschaften und der Kunst* (ed. J. C. Ersch / J. G. Gruber; Leipzig 1850), 327–347, 329–337. He narrates the story of his initial intuition in 1833 in the foreword to his *Geschichte der heiligen Schriften des Alten Testaments* (Braunschweig 1881), vii–viii. In *La Bible. L'Histoire Sainte et la Loi (Pentateuque et Josué)*, vol. 1 (Paris 1879), he speaks of a "savant d'origine alsacienne [Graf], qui mit à profit ... les principes qu'il avait entendu recommander trente ans auparavant quand il était encore sur les bancs d'école" (32), without mentioning his own name explicitly.

<sup>196</sup> Letter to Reuss, published in Budde, Briefwechsel (1904), 501. See also Külling, *Datierung* (1964), 6–7.

<sup>197</sup> Vatke, *Theologie*, 534–539. He argues for instance that Ezekiel could not have written the last chapters of his book if Leviticus and Numbers had already existed. Later Vatke gave up this opinion and returned to the traditional view on the age of the "Elohistic source", see Külling, *ibid.*, 38–39.

<sup>198</sup> Feste (1835), 11–13. See above.

<sup>199</sup> P. VON BOHLEN, *Die Genesis historisch-kritisch erläutert* (Königsberg 1835; ET: *Introduction to the Book of Genesis*, London 1855). He recognized that the laws in Leviticus had been successively compiled by priests (clxxii) in the postexilic period, and showed that the narrative of Gen 38 is unaware of Levitical legislation according to which Judah would have been punished with death (364–365). Von Bohlen dedicated his work to de Wette, who reacted in admitting that von Bohlen had presented valuable arguments for dating the Levitical system to a later age; see Thompson, *Law* (1970), 24.

<sup>200</sup> *Stiftshütte* (1862), 7.

<sup>201</sup> On p. 208, he wonders whether these laws are earlier than Ezekiel or later.

supported Graf's ideas that he published some years later.<sup>202</sup> According to HaCohen, "Popper's work contains the ('Jewish?') roots of the Graf-Wellhausen hypothesis".<sup>203</sup>

Graf's critical work on the Hebrew Bible started in 1855 with an investigation on the sanctuary of Shilo in the book of Judges, in which he tried to show that the books of Judges and Samuel do not presuppose the idea of one central sanctuary.<sup>204</sup> Consequently, the Tabernacle of Exod 25–40 is a literary fiction that transposes Solomon's temple into the wilderness. This fiction, together with other similar texts in Exodus – Numbers, stemmed from the time of the exile.<sup>205</sup> Graf's major contribution to Pentateuchal research was his 1865 work on the historical books of the Hebrew Bible.<sup>206</sup> Graf started with the affirmation that the Book of Deuteronomic law (Deut 5–26 and 28) corresponded to the book of the Josianic reform. He then asked which texts of the Pentateuch were to be regarded as earlier or later than the first edition of Deuteronomy. In a second step, Graf demonstrated that the priestly laws in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers<sup>207</sup> were added in several stages: some in the exilic period before Ezra, the majority by Ezra himself and some collections even later.<sup>208</sup> Like his teacher Reuss, Graf defended a supplementary hypothesis in postulating that the *Grundschrift* of the Pentateuch, which also contained texts like Genesis 17, had been revised by the Jehovist in the eighth century.<sup>209</sup> This Jehovist comprised a Hexateuch of a sort, reaching from the creation of the world to the conquest of the land. A later redactor, the Deuteronomist, inserted in exilic times the book of Deuteronomy by adding Deut 1–4 and 29–34 and by thoroughly reworking the book of Joshua. The same Deuteronomist also reworked the books of Kings.<sup>210</sup> The priestly laws existed in the time of Ezra as an independent collection which a redactor later inserted into the Deuteronomistic edition of the Hexateuch.<sup>211</sup> Bishop Colenso expressed a similar view in a letter of 1869: "I have no doubt that large parts of the three middle books & Joshua are due to the later or Levitical legislator after the captivity".<sup>212</sup>

Graf's reconstruction of the formation of the Hexateuch received much atten-

<sup>202</sup> Graf was aware of Popper's work, see Thompson, *ibid.* 34, and Conrad, Graf (2011), 117.

<sup>203</sup> HaCohen, *Reclaiming*, 138. He quotes a review that was published some year later in a Protestant Journal in which we read: "Mr. Popper can clearly claim to be the first to point definitively to this idea, which is of enormous importance to Pentateuch criticism as a whole".

<sup>204</sup> F. GRAF, *De templo Silonensi commentatio ad illustrandum locum Iud. XVIII, 30 sq.* (Meissen 1855). For a summary of the work see Conrad, Graf, 80–87.

<sup>205</sup> *De templo* (1855), 20–23.

<sup>206</sup> Despite the publication date (1866), the book appeared in 1865, see Houtman, *Pentateuch*, 100.

<sup>207</sup> The idea that Numbers contains mostly later supplements to the original legislation can already be found in A. KNOBEL, *Die Bücher Numeri, Deuteronomium und Josua* (KEHAT 1; Leipzig 1861).

<sup>208</sup> *Bücher* (1866), 85–117; see Conrad, Graf, 99–121.

<sup>209</sup> Graf was aware of the similarities between Gen 17 and the priestly laws, but explained them by pointing to an archaic priestly language used in those centuries (92–93).

<sup>210</sup> *Bücher*, 6–18, 109–110. Graf does not accept the idea of a Deuteronomistic edition of the books of Judges and Samuel. He ascribes the so-called *dtr* texts in these books to the Jehovist, see Conrad, Graf, 126–128.

<sup>211</sup> *Bücher*, 74–75.

<sup>212</sup> Letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1869, published in Draper, *Eye of the Storm* (2003), 96.

tion and positive as well as negative criticism.<sup>213</sup> Particularly important were comments by T. Nöldeke and A. Kuenen who criticized Graf's decision to split the *Grundschrift* into an older narrative and younger priestly laws.<sup>214</sup> Nöldeke (1836–1930, professor of Semitics<sup>215</sup> in Kiel, and after the German annexation of Alsace, in Strasbourg) argued that several narratives of the *Grundschrift* were closely related to the laws and that the *Grundschrift* as a whole should be considered to be preexilic. He admitted, however, that it was impossible to prove that this document was the oldest source of the Pentateuch.<sup>216</sup> In a letter to Graf, the Dutch scholar A. Kuenen discussed whether it was preferable to locate the whole *Grundschrift* after the Jehovist in a later period. Graf answered in French on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1866, recognizing that this was a new and surprising solution to the problem and saying that he was going to try to come to a new "conviction raisonnée".<sup>217</sup> In an article published after his death, he proposed a revised view on the formation of the Pentateuch,<sup>218</sup> acknowledging that the Jehovist was not a redactor but an independent document. Thus, it was no longer necessary to date the *Grundschrift* at the beginning of the Pentateuch. Quite the contrary, it now formed the last step in the formation of the first books of the Bible. Graf did, however, remain an advocate of the supplementary hypothesis. He claimed that the *Grundschrift* should be understood as a redaction and a revision of the older Jehovistic source.<sup>219</sup> It is interesting to note that one of the most important forerunners of Wellhausen did not advocate a documentary hypothesis but a supplementary theory, which is again discussed in present scholarship as a viable option for an adequate understanding of the so-called priestly texts of the Pentateuch.<sup>220</sup>

A similar position with regard to the "Elohistic document" was adopted in 1874 by August Kayser, also a student of Reuss, who argued that "the so-called *Grundschrift* was composed in its entirety (historical and legislative portions alike) after the return from captivity".<sup>221</sup> One of the most influential scholars who, together with Wellhausen, proposed the idea of an exilic or postexilic date of the priestly texts of the Pentateuch (in the context of the "newer" documentary hypothesis [JE, D, P] almost for a century the main hypothesis on the formation of the Pentateuch) was the Dutch scholar Abraham Kuenen. His approach will be presented in the chapter dedicated to him and Wellhausen.

<sup>213</sup> Conrad, Graf, 132–141.

<sup>214</sup> One should also mention the review by E. RIEHM in *ThStKr* 41 (1868), 350–379, who, similarly to Nöldeke, defended the unity of the *Grundschrift* and advocated a documentary hypothesis.

<sup>215</sup> His work on the Quran received a prize from the French *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*. On his life see M. FRENSCHKOWSKI, "Theodor Nöldeke", *BBKL* 6 (1993), cols 979–983.

<sup>216</sup> *Untersuchungen* (1869), 141: *auf keinen Fall darf man die Forderung aufstellen, dass die Grundschrift von allen ausführlichen Quellen des Pentateuchs gerade die älteste sein sollte.*

<sup>217</sup> Conrad, Graf, 135–136.

<sup>218</sup> *Grundschrift*.

<sup>219</sup> Referring to Nöldeke, he argues that it is impossible to reconstruct a coherent narrative, *Grundschrift*, 471–472.

<sup>220</sup> For an overview see S. SHECTMAN / J.S. BADEN (eds.), *The Strata of the Priestly Writings. Contemporary Debate and Future Directions* (AThANT 95; Zürich 2009).

<sup>221</sup> *Urgeschichte* (1874). English quotation according to Rogerson, *OT Criticism* (1984), 259.