

**THE HIGHER
CRITICISM OF
THE HEXATEUCH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649173488

The higher criticism of the Hexateuch by Charles A. Briggs

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CHARLES A. BRIGGS

**THE HIGHER
CRITICISM OF
THE HEXATEUCH**

THE HIGHER CRITICISM
OF
THE HEXATEUCH

220
B 76

BY

CHARLES AUGUSTUS BRIGGS, D.D.

EDWARD ROBINSON PROFESSOR OF BIBLICAL THEOLOGY IN THE
UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, NEW YORK

NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
1893

COPYRIGHT, 1892 AND 1893, BY
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS.

PRINTED BY
EDWARD O. JENKINS' SON,
NEW YORK.

Q 1 2 1 1 2
JUN 14 1973

TO
FRANCIS BROWN D.D.

DAVENPORT PROFESSOR OF HEBREW AND THE COGNATE LANGUAGES
IN THE UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY NEW YORK
PUPIL COLLEAGUE SUCCESSOR AND
TRUE YOKE-FELLOW

This Book

IS DEDICATED IN TRUST AND LOVE

P R E F A C E.

TEN years ago the author undertook to write a little book upon the Higher Criticism of the Hexateuch, and at that time he advanced some distance in its preparation. But on reflection he turned aside from it, with the opinion that the times were not yet ripe for it. He accordingly prepared the volumes entitled *Biblical Study*, in 1883, and *Messianic Prophecy*, in 1886. He has written a number of papers upon the Hexateuch in several different periodicals, and has ever kept in mind the ultimate accomplishment of his original plan. But it was his desire to wait until the completion of the new Hebrew Lexicon in order to use all the wealth of its fresh study of Hebrew words in the documents of the Hexateuch. It was also his desire to wait until he had completed his preparatory studies in the Higher Criticism of the Psalter, and in the Biblical Theology of the Old Testament. These studies are not in that state of forwardness which was anticipated before the publication of the present book. And yet they have gone so far as to produce a considerable amount of fresh evidence which now appears for the first time in this volume.

The circumstances in which the author is now placed make it necessary for him to define his position on the

Hexateuch. For this reason he presents to the public the result of his studies so far as they have gone. The only reason for any further delay in publication would be to make the evidence for his conclusions more comprehensive, more exhaustive, and entirely complete. But he is assured that the evidence is already so varied and comprehensive that there can be no reasonable doubt as to the answers which must be given to the chief questions which arise in the Higher Criticism of the Hexateuch.

The author has been engaged for many years in the study of this subject, since first he began original work upon it, in the University of Berlin, in 1866, under the instruction of Hengstenberg. He has advanced steadily and slowly, by constant revision and rectification of his opinions, until he has attained the results stated in this volume. He is glad that he is able to say that these results correspond in the main with the opinions which have been formed independently by leading Biblical scholars in all parts of the world.

The book has been written for the general public, rather than for Hebrew students. Accordingly the text has been made as free from technical matters as possible, and a large amount of material has been put in the Appendix, which thus becomes a volume by itself.

It is evident that these questions of the Higher Criticism can no longer be confined to theological schools and professional circles. The people desire to consider them and to know the answers to them. It is the earnest desire of the author to contribute to the removal of traditional prejudices, to the readjustment of opinions in accordance with facts, and to a better understanding and higher appreciation of the most ancient documents of our Holy Religion.

CONTENTS.

I.

THE PROBLEM, p. 1.

- (1) The Lines of Inquiry, p. 2; (2) The Lines of Evidence, p. 4.

II.

THE TESTIMONY OF HOLY SCRIPTURE, p. 6.

- (1) The Testimony of the Hexateuch, p. 6; (2) The Testimony of the Prophets, p. 13; (3) The Law Book of Josiah, p. 15; (4) The Testimony of the exilic and post-exilic Literature, p. 20; (5) The Testimony of the New Testament, p. 25.

III.

THE TRADITIONAL THEORIES, p. 31.

- (1) The Rabbinical Theory, p. 31; (2) The Views of the Fathers, p. 33; (3) The Position of the Reformers, p. 34.

IV.

THE RISE OF CRITICISM, p. 36.

- (1) Carlstadt, Masius, and Hobbes, p. 36; (2) Objections of Peyrerius and Spinoza to Mosaic Authorship, p. 36; (3) Richard Simon's Historical Criticism, p. 40; (4) The Scholastic Resistance, p. 42; (5) Witsius, Vitranga, and other mediating divines, p. 43.