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Contemporary Scholars On Historical Criticism

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June 30, 2010

Contemporary Scholars On Historical Criticism



Gerhard von Rad

Several years ago, Roy Gane was on an escalator with [Rolf Rendtorff](#), a prominent German biblical scholar (student of Gerhard von Rad, a pioneer of [form criticism](#)) after attending a session on pentateuchal [source criticism](#) at an annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Rendtorff remarked to Gane in response to the papers and discussion that they had just heard: “I want to work with real texts, not home-made texts.”

Similarly, Isaac Kikawada, Gane’s Akkadian and Ugaritic teacher at the University of California, Berkeley (and co-author of *Before Abraham Was*, which shows literary unity and artistry in the early chapters of Genesis), told Gane that the “J, E, D, and P” sources of pentateuchal authorship [according to the “[Documentary Hypothesis](#)”] are “scholarly phantoms that exist only in the minds of scholars.” He too wanted to work with real texts, and viewed attempts to identify original messages from God in Scripture (as opposed to merely human additions) as a kind of “misguided fundamentalism.”

[Click here](#) to read Roy Gane's reaction to these comments.

Posted by [Roy Gane](#) on June 30, 2010 in [History of Interpretation](#), [Quotable](#) | [Permalink](#)

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