

that Wellhausen did not go a little further, and, to use a favourite expression of his school, tell us that the historian "knows nothing" of the historical incident of Sisera's mother waiting for his return!

A few more instances of the manner in which the Old Testament history is dealt with must suffice. The account of the relations of the sons of God to the daughters of men (Gen. vi. 2) is dismissed as an "erratic boulder" (p. 334). Abraham is a "free creation of unconscious art" (p. 338), the "latest figure" in the company, and probably invented after Isaac! The Priestly Code omits all narratives in which any moral exception could be taken (p. 353). We are not told what induced the redactor to restore them, nor in fact can we possibly know that the Priestly Code omits them. We can only know, on Wellhausen's principles, that the redactor has chosen to relate them as they stand in the earlier history, and not as the author of the Priestly Code has told them, if he *does* tell them.¹

Further instances might be given, but it is time to pause. Enough has been said to enable the reader to understand Wellhausen's method, and to enable him to judge whether it is likely or not to lead to any valuable results. And it should be added that what has been said of Wellhausen may with equal fairness be said of any one else. That *all* their arguments are unfair or misleading is not asserted. But a very large part of them consists in exaggeration of difficulties, manufacture of contradictions, startling and unproved assertions, combined with a systematic tendency to ignore all arguments of opponents.

I had hoped to be able to make some general remarks on the character of the history in Genesis, the signs it presents of the use of documents, and the probable antiquity of these documents. But I must abandon my intention. In the next and last paper I hope to discuss the modern theory of the Mosaic law.

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¹ Wellhausen is very severe on the round numbers in Judges, and on the date of Isaac's death. It does not occur to him to treat such passages as possible interpolations, though he resorts freely to this hypothesis when it suits him.