

## Specialization

Specialities may be distinguished (1) by dividing and subdividing the field of data, (2) by classifying the results of investigations, and (3) by separating different stages in the process that leads from data to results. In the first manner, for example, Old Testament scholars might divide their data to specialize in the Law, or in the Prophets, or in the Writings. In the second manner some might specialize in Semitic languages, others in Hebrew history, others in the religions of the Ancient Near East, others in Christian theology. In the third manner, finally, some would be textual critics ascertaining what exactly was written, others would concentrate on the further issue of interpreting ~~many~~ the long series of texts, and still others would engage in putting together in a single view or story the meanings set forth by the interpreters.

### 1. Functional Specialization

Of the three manners described above, it is the third that is significant from the viewpoint of method. For the third, like method, is concerned with the process from data to results. Further, method would seem to demand that specialities be not just distinguished but also related and so unified; and the third manner meets this requirement. Though it distinguishes and separates different stages in a process, still it does not destroy the unity of the process: ~~the~~ earlier stages remain pointless unless later stages supervene, and later stages are impossible unless the earlier stages have preceded.

to results. Further, the third not only distinguishes but also relates and so unifies specialities: it is not content to offer a series of different sections into which a field of data has been divided, nor a mere classification for keeping different results apart; on the contrary, it divides a process into stages, only to make each earlier stage a precise presupposition of later stages and each later stage the complement of those that went before. Finally and of greatest importance, the process from data to results is a cognitional process; cognitional process in man is articulated in a series of stages; and so one may proceed from cognitional process to a fundamental doctrine of distinct and serially connected methods.