

than to follow the theories and ideas of the liberals.

(2) Argument for partition based on the continuous narrative concept.

(a) Statement:

Continuous narratives (documents) are shown in the Pentateuch when the various sections assigned to each author are put together and read as separate accounts. This means that the unity of the accounts is seen when individual entities are separated and so an argument is forged for the original work as a product in itself.

You may illustrate this by taking a Gospel harmony. Extract all the passages assigned to Matthew and you should have a continuous life of our Lord as written by Matthew. So in the Pentateuch when a division is arranged based on names, the extracted accounts will present a continuing intelligent narration. The critical idea is that if the writing were by one party (a person or even a group...but singular in structure) you would not be able to do this...you could not divide the single work into strands unless strands were there in the first place. This, to them, mandates multiple sources. Our general response is that the sort of narratives they produce and the method of adapting a word or phrase from here or there would allow us to do the very same thing with any work and I will probably have an emotional ramble or so on this in class.

(b) The Problems in the concept

/1/ The basis for division of the material into original documents is strongly suspect...the Divine Names argument. But even if this were not true we (and the argument given credibility) would still not have complete documents depending on how the various critics arranged or displayed the material.

/2/ Major omissions of truly important data occur in the manuscripts with great frequency and they are often such omissions as to make the entire passage look