

(2) Narrative Continuity

This is the way in which very diversified material is made part of the whole without seeming awkward, ill-fitting, contradictory, or out of place. It again is no accident and not easily accomplished. Note the following examples:

(a) The application of duplicated sections into a ready literary framework without seeming awkward and with no indication of forcing or misapplication.

--the decatalogue, Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. While some liberals label the repetition a matter of manuscripts, it seems plain to the Bible reader that some parts of truth are more needfully repeated. Deuteronomy 5 follows Exodus 20 by about 38 years. God gives good reason in that for the reiteration of His desire for His people. Memory requires jogging.

--likewise the creation accounts of Genesis 1 and 2. The matter in chapter 2 only recasts enough of the earlier material to give meaning to the garden setting and the notes on the covenant. Those who look for contradictions or overstatements in these passages will not find them. (Critics often miss this point and treat them as contradictory passages...something that a careful reading of the text immediately denies.)

(b) Similarly there is the literary material in which an inner working of the growing account is dependent on what goes before it. Often the documentary theory will put the matter in other documents! Note the following items as a short list of possible references on this line:

--Dependence of Ex. 2:24 on Gen. 15, etc.

--Dependence of Ex. 20:11 on Gen. 1-2

--Dependence of Num. 7:8,9 on Ex. 25 ff

There is, in this line, a constant outgrowth of new materials interwoven to the fabric of what had been said before.