

This is more easily demonstrated than defined but is really a simple idea. As the redactor worked he probably without intention copied the same material into his work from two different sources...really being unaware at the time of what was happening. Later our scholars would read it and say.. "Why is the phrase repeated? Why is the same thing being said another time?" Even if the words varied slightly we would still recognize it as a repetition. The answer would be that the parallel structure shows two combined sources. These parallel accounts, in the shorter form, are referred to as "doublets" and the discussion in Allis (FIVE BOOKS) is very complete.

(b) The varieties of parallelism

/1/ Sentences

Note in this connexion Genesis 21:1...

And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

Note how clause b repeats the concept of clause a. In this particular parallel expression a redactor has most likely played with the Divine names to harmonize the background.

/2/ Phrases

An example is seen in Genesis 7:17

"bare up the ark"... "it was lifted above the earth."

/3/ Complete Narratives

Some total narratives are seen as being set out in parallel form... a sure indication of multiple sources. Among these the most famous is the creation account in which Genesis 1:1-2:4a is alleged to parallel Genesis 2:4b-25.

Here is the analysis of the account of the flood and the complete narratives of P and J. The portions are in Genesis, naturally: