

copies and there is really only one witness.” So, if he is right that Matthew and Luke copied from Mark, then he is right that it is only one witness and not three. Absolutely right, if you prove his first statement that Matthew and Luke copied from Mark. But I do not think that is true. I think they are three. But when something is just a copy of something else, it adds nothing to its authority. There is no question that there was a very great consensus of opinion upon this matter, but the consensus needs to be examined to see just what kind of consensus it was and what it was based upon. And it is not as great as has been assumed, because a great many of the people who are included in it are simply people who are repeating what others say. Of course, nobody would say that the agreement about every verse was absolutely clear from any viewpoint, but the critics are pretty well agreed as to what P is. However, they give most of the material between Genesis 20 and Genesis 50, which uses the name “God” to E. Right in that area there is a tendency to pick a word here and two words there and a sentence here and say that it is from P. Thus you get a complete narrative in P by picking out a sentence here and there. The question is, is that a valid method?

That is about the only place where there is much question as to what belongs to P, but when it comes to J and E you will find great dogmatism as to what is in E, but you will also find great differences of opinion. It is very important to have in mind what these arguments are, and to examine this question: to how great an extent do they or do they not prove that there ever were separate documents like this, and that these documents show a progression and therefore must be by different authors?

We have now looked at a summary of the history of the criticism. If you do not have this in very excellent shape, it is rather a waste of time to go on to the next part, for it would be just repeating words with no meaning. You can know all the answers to the criticism, from here to the end of the year, word for word, as I give them to you, but if you prove in your examination that you do not know what the critical theory is, I will not give you one bit of credit for knowing what I give you from now on. There is no point in being able to answer something if you do not know what it is. It is just talking into the air,