

of verse 6 that he assigns to the E document read, “And Sarah said, ‘God hath prepared laughter for me and everyone that heareth will laugh with me.’ ” Then he assigns the first part of verse 7 to the J document, “And she said, ‘Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah should give children suck?’ ” And, he assigns the rest of verse 8 and all of the following verses to the E document. That is how he treats the beginning of chapter 21 from the J and E documents, which the critics say were combined to make JE. Now let me read the same section to you from the priestly manuscript, P. I shall read everything that he assigns to P from chapter 20 through chapter 22. P has nothing from chapter 20, and nothing from chapter 22, but takes a few words from chapter 21. Here is all it has, (starting from verse 1), “And God visited Sarah as he had promised.” Continuing from verse 2, “at the appointed time which God had promised.” Then from verse 3, “Then Abraham called the name of the son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.” Verse 4, “And Abraham circumcised his son who was eight days old as God had commanded him.” Verse 5, “And Abraham was an hundred years old when Isaac was born to him.” That is all that is assigned to the P document there, because verse 6 is put in the E Document, “and Sarah said, ‘God hath prepared laughter for me and everyone that heareth will laugh with me.’ ”

That is all that he put in the P document. But you notice how the two start, in order to get a continuous story in the P document and a continuous story in the JE combination. J begins, “and Yahweh visited Sarah and she conceived and bare Abraham a son in his old age.” P begins, “And God said to Sarah as he had promised at the appointed time which God had promised.” As you see, the difficulty here is that while most of chapter 21 is said to be from the E document, its first verse uses the name Jehovah twice. He assigns most of the chapter to the E document but gives verses 3, 4, and 5 to the P document even though Jehovah is used twice. In this section of the JE document, he has a footnote which says, “This verse is an addition by the editor who united the Jehovist and Elohist documents.” In the case of the P document, he says, “and God did to Sarah as he promised,” and he has a footnote to the words “and God” which says, “The text of the Pentateuch has Yahweh.” The editor has put together fragments of JE and of P in one verse and naturally he objected to a change of divine