

are words used that they say are not characteristic of the P document, so they say that a late redactor of the P document inserted those particular verses.

Chapter 37 begins, “Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father had sojourned, in the land of Canaan. These are the generations of Jacob.” That is chapter 37:1, 2a. As you continue in 37, you have that very interesting story of Joseph as a boy, and of his life with his brothers and his being sold into Egypt. They remove all of that from the P document and divide it between the J and the E documents, so the next verse assigned to the P document is Gen 41:46. “Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt.” What a continuous document! Joseph has not even been mentioned. Jacob was previously in view, and all of a sudden we read that Joseph was thirty years old before he stood before Pharaoh! How did Joseph ever get down to Egypt, and how did he ever come to stand before Pharaoh! P certainly is very, very far from a complete document. And there they only insert what I just read from chapter forty-one, and then they jump to 46:6: “So they took their cattle and their substance which they had gathered in the land of Canaan, and went to Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him.” The P document then gets most of the rest of that chapter because it lists the people who went down into Egypt.

These are some of the most striking instances among many that could be cited to show how the P document, even according to the critical theory, is far from complete. P is very full in the books of Leviticus and Numbers. It tells what they were to do with the tabernacle (how to build the tabernacle, etc.) and how to do the sacrifices. In all that it is very full, and it is very full in the genealogies. But of the narrative, they give it a little sentence here and a little sentence there, and that is all.

There have been individuals who have said that each of these stories was originally complete, and that certain parts of one were selected and certain parts of the other were selected. If you say that, you are dropping the entire argument from continuous narrative, which was one of the four original arguments. But if you hold to the original argument, then you would expect that they would have included