

unto her as he had said.” There is a repetition, but there is a step forward in the narrative. That is often the case. Thus you might say, “there was a son born to Abraham, and Abraham named his first-born son Ishmael.” There would be two sentences which would continue one right after the other in very reasonable fashion, yet either one alone could make perfect sense. This type of parallel passage argument could be considered to be an argument from continuous narrative. Any kind of writing could be divided up that way. Take the early part of the story of the flood as an instance. You look at the story of the flood as it is contained in the J document. And you read Genesis 7:12, a certain kind of rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. According to Addis the next verse in the J document is v. 17, “and the flood was forty days upon the earth.” Could not these two be considered parallel? A torrent of rain fell on the earth, forty days and forty nights; and the flood was forty days upon the earth. If you want, you can divide it into two distinct documents. Verse 17 continues, “and the waters increased, and bare up the ark. And it was lifted up above the earth.” You notice another repetition, “And the waters bear up the ark” and “it was lifted up above the earth.” If you needed to make two documents, you could put “it bare up the ark” in one document and “it was lifted up above the earth” in the other document. Verse 22 is the next one he puts in J, “All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life of all that was on the dry land died.” He also puts verse 23 in J, “And he brought out every existing thing which was on the face of the ground.” Again, those two say the same thing. Even though they are quite different in terminology, verses 22 and 23 are exactly identical in thought, and yet they are both put into the J document. As you see, it is natural in speech to repeat. You may repeat with some new idea added, or you may simply repeat without any new idea. It is natural in either case.

The purpose of the Scripture is not simply to give us a very brief mathematical statement of truth, while sparing words as much as possible. The purpose is to give us a vivid picture, and a realization of what happened. When you desire to give a vivid realization of the flood, you pour on your adjectives and you increase your statements so as to show its tremendousness. You repeat different aspects of it, over and over. You do not just say that every living creature died. You