

him.” The other says the brothers lifted him up and sold him. And you get a contradiction out of that!? Of course, the place where the real difficulty comes, is in the fact that you have the words “Midianite” and “Ishmaelite” both introduced into it. On that we are certainly in ignorance. We do not have proof of the relationship between the Midianites and the Ishmaelites. But when you do not have proof of a thing like that, it is pretty hard to say you have a proof that it is wrong. And that, of course, is what they are implying. It is usually considered by conservatives that here “Midianites” and “Ishmaelites” must be two terms for the same thing. I think we can say that if the critics were right and these are two documents put together, you would have to say that the man who put them together considered Midianites and Ishmaelites to be the same, or else he introduced a freakish confusion into his stories.

Supposing I were to say that we went up to Philadelphia and when we entered the Windy City, we found that there was a strong wind blowing off Lake Michigan? Now if I made that statement, you would know, of course, that was from two different documents. If I said I went up to Philadelphia and when we entered the city of Brotherly Love we found there was a big wind blowing off the Delaware, there would be no contradiction. One story could say we went to the City of Brotherly Love and the other story could say we went to Philadelphia. It would be two different ways of saying exactly the same thing. And if they were combined that way it would show that the man who combined them, considered that they said the same thing. And it is plain then that the man who combined these, if they were separate, considered them as the same thing. Mr. Horner had that difficulty facing him from some professor in the University of Delaware, and he did not have an answer. Then later on, as he was reading his devotions, he discovered a verse in I Kings where it says the Midianites were Ishmaelites.

There is other evidence in the Scripture which fits with the idea that the Midianites and the Ishmaelites are two different terms which could be interchangeable. It does not mean they are identical. It does not mean that, but that they are two related terms, as if someone would say in Europe that he saw a group of seminary students in the streets