

duplications. You find repetition, and therefore you take these duplications. You put one over here and one over here, and you have two different stories. This matter of having duplication or repetition. And in many Heb. stories we find a great many duplicates or repetitions. It is common in the Bible to tell a story with first a brief summary of the whole thing, followed by an account in detail. That's a common practice today in newspapers. Very often they start with a lead. They will say Pres. Nixon returned yesterday from his trip -- from his very much publicized trip to China, bringing back with him two -- what kind of animals are they? and so on. Tellings these details about it and -- a one sentence that crams it all together. Then the next paragraph is apt to start and say: Pres. Nixon left Shanghai at 7 o'clock yesterday morning. They have already told you that he returned, and then they start in, he left there at 7 yesterday morning. They start in first with a summary, and then with a more detailed story starting again from the beginning. That's very common in newspapers. And it is very common in the Bible. -- To give a summary statement, and then to go into things in detail. And then it is very common in almost any literary work to have a great deal of repetition for emphasis. And so the fact that you have repetition does not prove you have different documents. If you can take half the repetition, and put them over here, and put the other half over here, and have two complete stories, that would indeed be a strong argument. But the mere fact of having repetition or duplicates is not in itself a proof of a document with different sections fitted together as the HC claim most of the Bible - Old and NT - was produced. But this argument is of most importance in connection with the third argument:

The argument that you have here two complete narratives. Each of them is complete. You do not need to have anything from the other. They are complete. Only you -- they have just been combined together. Well now this argument from complete narrative just doesn't work out. I have in my library several books in which we have a complete quotation of the story from one of them, and the complete story from the other -- that is of the Pentateuch. And you will find that in some of these books they just put in extra words in order to round out the story. But in others they will put these words in brackets or make little dots.