

And you will find all sorts of things that are in one of these stories that are not in the other. You have the general story, it is true, in both. But there are details there are places where it jumps from one thing to another with just a gap. It does not make two complete stories. So this argument, while it at first sight rather convincing in connection with the stories of the spies, on closer examination proves to be full of flaws. In the P story, according to them it ends up with them coming to the wilderness of Haran and it just says, The spies went into the land. And it doesn't tell about God's command to get, to order spies to go. It doesn't tell about the selection of them. It does not tell about Moses gathering them in and telling them to go or anything. It just starts They went. And that's just one of many gaps in them.

Well now the fourth argument is that there is a different viewpoint, different style. That there are contradictions between them. And this if it can be proven is of course as strong an argument as you can get. That there are contradictions between the two stories and these contradictions are fitted together so that you don't notice it if you just read straight along without thinking, but that they are very sharp contradictions, actually. And this is so important, this argument, that we will take time to look at it in more detail.

§. Examination of the Alleged Contradictions. Now according to the critics, in one of the accounts they go from the wilderness of Paran and return to the wilderness of Paran. In the other they go from Kadesh and return to Kadesh. Well now here we have two different things. In one they go from the wilderness of Paran; in the other they go from Kadesh. Well we are not sure where Kadesh is, and we are not sure what the exact area of the wilderness of Paran (is). There have been various scholars who have tried to determine the site of Kadesh. Some have had some pretty good arguments for one site or another, but there has been no absolute agreement as yet upon that question. Actually the name Kadesh is a rather common name. Because it simply means "holy" and almost any shrine might be called Kadesh. You really need a further delimitation. It's like in this country, if you say, A man went to Washington. I was down in North Carolina at one time