

statements or of repeated words or phrases sprinkled throughout the narrative, is to be expected in ancient Oriental literature, and provides little evidence for the multidocumentary hypothesis.

§ *N.* Application Ad Absurdum

Any writing that describes two or more similar events or that uses repetition for summary and emphasis, will have sufficient duplications of wording to enable the interested reader who is so inclined to "divide" the writing into two or three "sources." Yet in many cases multiple authorship would be absurd. Realization of this fact has helped lead to the abandonment of source criticism in general literature, as discussed in Chapter 2, "A Short History of Literary Criticism." With all its duplications, the Gilgamesh Epic has found few scholars desiring to define its contribution documents.

William Henry Green, the famous Old Testament scholar, and for many years Professor of Oriental and Old Testament Literature in Princeton Theological Seminary, has humorously applied the documentary technique to two of Jesus' parables -- The Prodigal Son and The Good Samaritan. Following each of his examples are Dr. Green's remarks (written tongue in cheek, to be sure):

The futility of the methods by which the Pentateuch has been parcelled into different documents may further be shown by the readiness with which they can be applied, and with equal success, to writings the unity of which is indisputable. The fact that a narrative can be so divided as to form from it two continuous narratives, is reckoned by the critics a demonstration of its composite character, and a proof that the parts into which it has been severed are the original sources from which it has been compounded. This may be tested by a couple of