G. E. Wright states "We do not know E as a complete source but mainly as a supplementation of J, and Frank M. Cross, Jr. has argued persuasively that P can no longer be proved to be anything more than an editing and supplementing of JE ("Exodus" in the Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible)

This is the critics dilemma. If the redactor takes care to avoid anything that might degrade the Fathers in the eyes of the reader and he never says anything critical of Abraham, Jacob, or Noah then the redactor must have picked what he wanted and left out a lot that he did not want included.

On the other hand it is contended that the compiler was scrupulously impartial and did not tamper with or seek to harmonize divergent traditions.

Either the compiler and redactor has been busy smoothing over discrepancies (Skinner, Genesis, p. 417n) or "he had no intention of rewriting all the traditions to make them fit into a smoothly consistent theological system. In fact he permitted theological archaisms to stand."(B. W. Anderson, 1966 ed., p. 167)

According to Driver's Analysis out of the 1534 verses in Genesis he gives about 780 to J, about 730 to P and E together (the original Elohist). Of the 730 he assigned to P and E, nearly 200 are in the first 19 chapters and practically all of these are given to P. ~~Subtract 200 from 730 and you get 530. Out of those about two-thirds are given to E.~~ In Gen. 20-50 there are about 530 verses given to E and P together, with one-third to P. So in the last 30 chapters of Genesis only 175 verses are given to P, which originally was the foundation writing and supposed to be that upon which the supplements of other documents were added, this P has been cut down to be the smallest of the three documents. Most of P's material is in a few chapters, and the rest is in tiny fragments scattered throughout the book.

That which is told in one document often assumes what is told in another.

According to Driver's Analysis out of the 1533 verses in Gen. he gives 745 vs. + 30 half-vs. to J, 760 vs. + 41 half-vs. to P and E together (the original Elohist). Of the 760 vs. + 41 half-vs. he assigned to P and E, 197 vs. + 13 half-vs. are in the first 19 chapters and practically all are given to P. In Gen. 20-50 there are 566 verses + 20 half-vs. given to E + P together, with 215 vs. and 17 half-vs. given to P and 351 vs. and 3 half-vs. given to E. So in the last 30 chapters of Genesis only 215 vs. + 17 half-vs. are given to P, which originally was the foundation writing !!!!!

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