

scattered portions of E in chapter 15 also. But the E document takes most of the material that was assigned to the First Elohist from chapter 20 - 50, and whereas there are occasional long portions in P from chapter 20 on, most of it is just an occasional verse here and there, a tiny fragment that seems to provide some connecting thread. It is the tiniest bit of a thread and to speak of it as a continuous narrative would make one wonder what kind of a "book" it ever was. Presumably one could write a book that was just a list of names and genealogies with a fact scattered here and there as to where some of them went and what they did, but P is much more than that. P is a long account of creation, a long account of the flood, a long account of the burial of Sarah, and an account of the Kings of Edom. It has a few things like this that are given at length. What sort of a document would it be that had a few things given at length and only a brief word about the rest? It could hardly be considered a continuous or complete document and so the continuous document idea falls to pieces pretty badly when it is divided up into the First and Second Elohist.

When you see how very slim is the material given to P, you wonder why it should be given to be at all. It appears to be an attempt to make the story or document look continuous by connecting it up with a couple of words that have been taken out of another document. Chapter 21 gives further illustration of this. It begins, "And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him." The critics give verse 1a and 2a to J, and they give 1b and 2b to P. So the J account reads, "And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age. On the other hand the P document is said to be the last half of verses one and two and read, "And the Lord did unto Sarah, as he had spoken at the set time of which God had spoken to him." So they divide up the two verses giving half to one document and half to another and these are said to be two