

the shock.

The argument from parallel passages is a much more complex argument. It would be easy to show that the great bulk of its alleged cases do not work out on close examination. Either there is a reason why a thing should be told twice, ~~that~~ as when a command is given in detail and then we are told in detail how it is carried out, or there are two events which actually are distinct and different, which are alleged to be the same event. The argument from parallel passages rests upon the assumption that coincidences do not occur. In history of the past few years it would be easy to show dozens of coincidences which have occurred. Such things are common in any life or in any experience if you once start looking for them. It takes more than the type of parallel passage evidence that has been advanced to actually prove different documents on this basis.

The claim that it is possible to take an ancient document and on the basis of its contents alone divide it up into previous sources, is practically given up <sup>regarding</sup> ~~by~~ other works, except <sup>for</sup> the Bible. Man does not have enough knowledge to do such a thing.

A constructive illustration of this is found in the story of the study of Goethe's works. A student using this method at one time divided up the prologue of Faust and showed the great interest, ~~the~~ what words showed the enthusiasm and energy of Goethe's youth and which phrases in it showed the disillusionment and weariness of his old age. It's well known that Goethe worked over his Faust during most of his life, and kept changing and improving. So the theory in explanation of the Prologue was very interesting indeed, and seemed to have much to commend it. However, someone rummaging through a garret, discovered a copy of it in a place where Goethe had lived at an earlier time, discovered a copy of the Prologue written when ~~he~~ was a young man, and found that it was almost identically in the form in which he left it in his old age. Other parts of the book he worked over and changed from time to time.