

assumed different forms at different times and been put into the *different* documents, and then been combined, producing a whole series of stories which contradict one another and yet are demonstrably the same story, and thus give evidence that these were distinct documents. As you see, the parallel passage argument is a very strong one, if the facts are as the critics claim. It is a very strong argument, but it is one that is absolutely inconsistent with acceptance of the Bible as God's Word.

If two stories of the same event contradict each other, they cannot both be right.

There are three sorts of parallel passages. There is one that simply amounts to a sentence in one place which is similar to a sentence in another. Such parallels occur in almost anything that anybody writes.

If you want to get your thoughts across, you will usually have to repeat and stress the things that are vital; so in any narrative you will probably have sentences which repeat the same idea in other words. This is not in itself an evidence that there are two parallel passages. It really goes under the other question of continuous document. If you can take one out and take the other out and read right straight along, it suggests that you have a continuous document. But again, as we have noticed, it only suggests that a certain amount of repetition is to be expected in just about anything you read.

The second type of parallel passage is found where there is more than an individual sentence corresponding to a sentence somewhere else. It is where you have parallel accounts, as they suggest are found in the story of the flood. There you have a long account which you can divide up and put a few verses here and a few verses there and read them each and get a complete story and thus have two stories which are parallel. There again, it is a question of how much repetition you are apt to make in what you say. In anything you tell there is apt to be a fair amount of repetition, though there would not ordinarily be enough repetition that you could reconstruct two complete accounts. Besides, these alleged accounts usually have gaps in them. They are not usually as continuous and complete as they claim that they are. If