

is simply that there are three different things connected with the word, all of which went together to suggest that the name would be quite appropriate?

This is an example of how things are separated out into two or three different stories and then said to contradict each other. But we ask, is there really a contradiction? In some cases, like this one, there does not seem to be a contradiction at all. Where there seems to be a contradiction, as in the story that says Abraham went to Egypt and told a lie and the story that says he went to Gerar and told a lie, is there a contradiction, or are there really two distinct events? Could not Abraham have done this same thing more than once? The three references are taken from three different chapters. In the first case, in Genesis 17, the Lord gives a wonderful promise to Abraham. He says, "Sarah will have a child and I will bless him and he will be the founder of a great line." In chapter 18, God talks with Abraham and tells him that Sarah is going to have a child and Sarah is in the tent and hears Him and laughs from incredulity. Two chapters later it tells how the boy is born, and Sarah laughs with joy and calls his name Isaac. There are three distinct events. In each of the events, the word "laugh" is used, and they are all connected with Isaac, and in the end he is given the name, Isaac. The critics say that there are three distinct reasons for the name, and attempt to put them into three different documents. This is not so difficult in chapter 17, because in chapter 17 the name God is used many times and the story is given to the P document. In chapter 18 the name Jehovah is used many times and the story is given to the J document. But when they come to chapter 21 they find both names used, so they give the first verse to the J document, and the next three to the P document, and then the next one to the E document, and that is how they get the E story of the birth of Isaac. It is easy to see that there is a great deal of conjecture in all of this.

If I were to have two baskets and one had a lot of red slips in it and one had a lot of blue slips in it, I could say, "See, all the slips in this one are red and all the slips in that one are blue." There is proof that there are two distinct baskets: in one the slips are all red and in the other they are all blue. If you had examined fifty from each basket and