

myself, remember reading about the first incident, which occurred in 1915, during World War I. At that time a German fleet, commanded by an admiral named Graf Spee, which in English would be Count Spee, had a great battle with an English fleet, near the Falkland Islands, in the Atlantic Ocean east of Brazil and Argentina. The German fleet was defeated, and its flagship went to the bottom of the ocean, carrying Graf Spee to a watery grave. A quarter of a century later, during World War II, the Germans built a so-called “pocket” battleship, which had all of the latest and most advanced techniques, and was thought to be unsinkable. A sizeable English fleet located it in the Atlantic Ocean near the Falkland Islands, and fought a great battle against it. There were heavy losses on both sides, and the Graf Spee was so severely damaged that it was impossible to repair it completely during the number of days that it was permitted to stay in a neutral port, so Hitler ordered the crew to take it out and sink it, to keep the British from being able to examine its advanced technological features. Thus Graf Spee sank in the ocean, in the same general area, as one of the most spectacular events of each of the two world wars. If these events were recorded in the Pentateuch, the critics would tell us that only one event had really happened, and these were really duplicate narratives from two different documents, one of which thought Graf Spee was a man, while the other thought Graf Spee was a ship.

The so-called parallel passages can be divided roughly into three types: the first consists of places where there are two or three phrases or brief sentences which tell substantially the same thing, and the critics say that one is taken from one document and one from another, as in the instance where we read, “the Lord visited Sarah as he had promised and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had said.” The critics divide this sentence and give half of it to the P document and half to the J. They do that sort of thing rather frequently in order to get a continuous narrative. But there is a problem. If it is to be taken as an argument for parallel passages, this should be done with every word that involves such a repetition. If that was done you could divide what any one says into many different documents. We all repeat ourselves frequently, and very often these are not exact repetitions, but there is a little difference. “The Lord visited her as he had promised and did