

of any attempt to make something realistic and vivid, or even to make an idea clear.

I have probably repeated that idea four or five times in the last few minutes and you could say that this is a combination of four or five different documents, if you had a transcript of what I said this morning. You will find much repetition in any literature, particularly of those matters which one desires to stress, or which are important to make clear.

There is also something more that you will notice in connection with the flood. The early part of the story is quite complete in the J document, and is quite complete in the P document, but the end of the flood story is very abrupt in both documents. Each of them has certain things the other does not have. You will find great gaps in the end of the flood story and also in the middle of it. For instance, the sending out of the birds is told in one but there is no parallel to it in the other. You might think they could make a parallel by having two of the birds sent out in one story and one in the other. Since you have three birds sent out, that would be an easy way to make a parallel, but they do not do it. They put the three birds into one account. The accounts are so similar that it is not very difficult to divide them, but there is a great difficulty in getting a full story at the end. In the middle and at the beginning you have no difficulty whatever; in fact, you can take the early part of the flood story in each of them and divide it into two more documents. Indeed, I think you probably could make six or seven different documents of the beginning of the flood.

The reason is clear: the author was anxious to impress his readers with the tremendous nature of the flood, so he says that the fountains of the deep were opened, and he says the windows of heaven were opened, and he says the rains descended, and he says that the waters were raised up above the tops of the mountains. He goes on to give phrase after phrase after phrase emphasizing the tremendous nature of the event. You can divide it up, put half of the phrases over here and half there until you have two documents, divide it again and make four or five documents, because he is stressing these things. he stresses what Noah is to do: how he is to take the animals into the ark, exactly