

what animals he is to take, how they are to get into the ark, how he is to care for them, who is to go into the ark and how they are to be cared for, what will happen to those who do not go in. All of these things are stressed.

The building of the ark is quite different. The manner of building the ark is not stressed. Noah is told to do it, and he does it. But the wickedness of man before the flood, the tremendous nature of the outpouring of the waters, the rising of the waters, God's care for Noah in the early part of the flood – all that is stressed and stressed until you have no difficulty in getting two documents. But you might as well get five or six! Thus you see the artistry of the account – the way it builds up this vivid picture of the tremendous coming of the flood, and how the ark was lifted up upon the earth, and all the long time they spent in it throughout the flood. But then the flood ends, and they walk out. It just stops, it ends, and they come out. There is no repetition there. It is not necessary. It would have been inartistic to have had such repetition at the end as you have at the beginning.

So consequently, at the end you have difficulty in making even two complete stories. Each of them is quite incomplete toward the end. The story of the sacrifice is told in J but not in P. There the story is told once and that is all. There is no need of stressing, nor repeating. It is a fairly simple thing, easy to state once.

This second type of parallel is something that you will find to quite an extent in any kind of literature. Certain aspects of the story have no need of being repeated and stressed, and these aspects are not repeated or stressed in that way. The real test is the question: do the two stories contradict one another? That is the test. When you divide it, do you have two stories that contradict one another? Is there a real contradiction? Or is the contradiction introduced by the way you divide it? If there was a real contradiction there, which in some way escaped notice when the two were put together, then you would have a strong argument for two different stories.

This second type of parallel, that of combined stories, is one which we could find in quite a number of stories in the scripture. The flood