

Assignment: Note arguments for partition of Gen. 6-9 & note points of strength or weakness according to continuous narrative theory.

Arguments for partition:-from Skinner's International Crit. Comm. -pg. 148

1.-Linguistic

a.-Divine Names

b.-Characteristic expressions (style).

2.-Diversity of representation

a.- In: J-clean & unclean animals distinguished... former enter ark by sevens, and latter pairs. 7:2 & 8:20

P-One pair of every kind without distinction is admitted. 6:19f & 7:15f

J-forty day rain to commence seven days after entering ark. 7:4,10,12, 8:2b,6...

P-a different conception of the cause of the flood & ~~in~~ (7:11, 8:2a), and in 7:6,11,13,24, 8:3b,4,5,13a, 14 a chronological scheme according to which the waters increase for 150 days and flood duration is one year.

3.-Duplicates (Parallel Accounts)

a.-6:5-8//6:11-13; 7:1-5//6:17-22; 7:7//7:13; 7:10//7:11; 7:17b//7:18; 7:22f//7:21; 8:2b&3a//8:1f; 8:13b//8:13a&14; 8:20-22//9:8ff.

4.-The two series of passages form two "all but continuous narratives"

a.-"The J sections are a graphic popular tale, appealing to the imagination rather than to the reasoning faculties. The aim of the writer, one would say, was to bring the cosmopolitan (Babylonian) Flood-legend within the comprehension of a native of Palestine... The picturesque incident of the dove (8:9) reveals the touch of the of descriptive genius which so often breaks forth from this document. The boldest anthropomorphisms are freely introduced into the conception of God (6:6f, 7:16b, 8:21); and the religious institutions of the author's time are unhesitatingly assumed for the age of Noah...

"Still more pronounced are the characteristics of P in the other account. The vivid details which are the life and charm of the older narrative have all disappeared; and if the sign of the rainbow (9:12-17) is retained, its aesthetic beauty has evaporated. For the rest, everything is formal, precise, and calculated, -the size of the ark, the number of the persons and the classification of the animals in it, the exact duration of the Flood in its various stages, etc.: if these mathematical determinations are removed, there is little story left. The real interest of the writer is in the new departure in God's dealings with the world, of which the Flood was the occasion... Very significant are the omission of Noah's sacrifice, and the ignoring of the laws of cleanness and uncleanness amongst animals."