

3. The Names of Moses' Father-in-law. The critics make much of the fact that Moses' father-in-law is called by three different names. He is frequently called Jethro. We find him 4 times in Ex. 3 called Jethro. We find him about 8 times in Ex. 18 called Jethro. We also also find him called Reuel in Ex. 2:18. and we find him called Reguel here in this verse. We read that Moses was the son of Reguel, Moses' father-in-law. Now the critics make much of ~~of~~ the difference between Reuel and ~~Jethro~~ Jethro -- a difference of MSS! One MS uses Reuel, the other uses Jethro. Well of course the division this way is always worth attempting in a book. A person may give away the fact that he has combined two different documents by the fact that he keeps the usages of the two and you can easily recognize the difference. There are cases where we can divide documents this way, but the critics have carried it to a wild extreme. And in their application of it to the Pentateuch, it does not work out as they claim that it does. You can take any one of various criteria they present and you will find that in most cases they do not carry it through consistently. Besides it is not a thing that is any means rare to have an individual called by more than one name. In fact, it is very common in life that ^{the same person is} different people are called by different names. I called a student three years ago, and two years ago all through the year every time I referred to him I called him Mr. Macedo. And then in the third year I found everybody else was calling him Gutenberg. It's the South American habit to call people by their first name. They all do it, it's the regular custom, and we are apt to follow it. We had an Indian student about 6 years ago from India who I called by one name which I thought was his regular name for a yr. or more, and then I found he preferred another one of the group of names that he put on his official statements. So we called him by that other name later on. It's not at all uncommon that people are referred to by different names. If you read the history of England at the time shortly before our Revolutionary War you will find that the great leader, the one whom Pittsburgh is named after, William Pitt was the great leader in English history who changed the ~~condition~~ condition of England from a little island that didn't have much possession anywhere else to a great world power. And Wm. Pitt was a grt. Eng. leader. And then the King made him Lord Chattle, and if you read in the Eng. history and you open it at random you'll read that Pitt did this and Pitt did that