

of good points and I think that Aleph and B deserve tremendous attention, but I don't think they are infallible. But to say that what the Textus Receptus back of our present one is absolutely correct is utter nonsense because we can easily find a few, not a great many, but a few cases where ~~they~~ there is absolutely no question but what the text had become corrupt. There are very few, but on the whole the text is very dependable. But God did not choose to give us an absolutely accurate text. He gave us the text more accurate than ^{that of} any other work that has come down to us from antiquity. Probably several hundred percent more accurate than any other work from antiquity, but it is not an absolutely perfect text. We must recognize that fact. And if God gave us a perfect text if it would be of value for us He would have to give us a perfect language to go with it, in which every word would be absolutely clear in its meaning and there would be no question what every word meant, and there is no such thing because humanity does not have that much perfection and our words are always changing their meaning. So under the conditions of human life we have a marvellous Scripture with very very few textual errors and yet there are some and we must compare Script. with Script. to determine what the truth is. Well in this case I don't think there is a textual error, but as you read it the critics say This vs. describes that when they went the ark of the covenant flew ahead of them through the air to look around and see a place where they could camp and came back and told them of it! And of course that's utter nonsense but that's what most of the higher critical books say that this vs. means. And it must be said that if you're going to be an ultra literalist and take words in their absolutely literal sense, that is the conclusion you reach as to what the vs. says. "They departed a three days/~~no~~ journey and in this three days journey the ark of the covenant of the Lord went ahead of them to ~~set~~ search out a resting place for them." The ark of the cov. then flew ~~up~~ and found a ~~good~~ place ~~to~~ ~~camp/and/came/back~~ and said Here's a good place to camp; came back and told them. That is what ultra-literalism would lead you to think the verse means -- to search out a resting place for them. Well, our Christian commentaries do not really grapple with that problem. Most of them get all excited about the fact that it went before them. There's apparent contradiction because ~~we're~~ ^{we're} told a few chapters back that the -- that half the tribes are to go and then they are to carry the tabernacle and its parts and then the other