

this. I said, What relation would it have to Pentateuchal criticism? And the thought occurred to me that if this was as the critics say it was. if it is something that was written in the time of the later Israelite kingdom, how would anybody have made up such a story as this? How would they make up the idea, it certainly was not happening around them, the priests were not able in any such way as this to prove when the person had been guilty through such a thing. We have no evidence of this ordeal having been made at any time after the Moses, -- the time when Moses was with the people there. If somebody-- For somebody to give it as a law when there is no evidence it was being used as a law at all is hardly to be expected. On the other ~~hand~~ ^{in those days} hand if somebody had at time had said, Well back at that time they did it. Well he surely would have said someone did it. This is for the time through the wilderness journey. He would have put it in. But if Moses wrote it and gave the commands that God gave him and it was written down and they have it for the pilgrimage journey, then after they go on into the promised land, this was written when it was an effective law. So there was no reason, no natural reason to put in such a statement. We have many statements such as "this was done in those days." "This was the law at that time." "This was while the Cannanites were still in the land" or "This was after they had come into the land" or something like that. But a statement like that would be natural if this was made up at a later time. But as simply Moses writing down the commandment God gave them which they carried out during Moses' lifetime, it is the most natural thing to have been written in this way.

And so we have this law of jealousy here which can easily be misunderstood. And can leave one to feel that there are primitive ideas, ideas of ^{ordeal} ordeal, something like that in the Scripture. It is not that. It is a supernatural intervention of God, and while it was important in maintaining purity in the land and it doubtless made it easier for some people to avoid committing sin in these regards, the knowledge that this might be done, yet its primary purpose was not that but it was the removal of the feelings of resentment and jealousy which could do such tremendous harm to the minds and hearts of those who harbored them. Let us pray: Our Father we thank you