

III- The Alleged criteria is not carried through consistently

If one could take all the sections that use Elohim and put them together and all the sections that use Jehovah and put them together, he could say that in the sections which use Jehovah a maidservant is always spoken of as almah whereas in the sections that use Elohim the writer always speaks of a maidservant as _____, not almah. Furthermore, in the sections which use Elohim, the writer always says "male and female" (of animals or of human beings) who were created by God or who entered into the ark. But in the section that uses Jehovah, the writer always uses the expression "man and his wife" when describing his creation by God or his entering into the ark. Now if these and similar usages could be carried through consistently it would be a most remarkable thing. It would be a strong argument for the theory. But when you take a word that the critics say is consistent with one document and trace it through, you have little difficulty showing that the criteria are not applied consistently.

For instance, Professor Alders in his book A Short Introduction to the Pentateuch notes that Chapter 33 of Genesis is ordinarily ascribed to J, except for the last two or two and a half verses which are ascribed to E. The chapter is ascribed mainly to J because in verses 1, 2, and 6 J's word for "female slave" is used rather than E's word for female slave. To be sure the name Jehovah does not occur at all and the name Elohim occurs in verses 5, 10, and 11 but still the critics give the passage to J. One reason they do this is because it uses J's word for "female slave". The Divine name, therefore, originally must have been Jehovah but it was changed to Elohim by the Redactor. E's word for "female slave" and J's word for "female slave" are said to be characteristic distinguishing marks of the style of E and of J. However, in Genesis 20, which is the first continuous excerpt from the E document we find that both E's word for "female slave" as well as J's word for "female slave" are used.