

Argument from Style

Skinner, ICC Commentary, Genesis

p. lviii ". . . every isolated sentence of which has been detached from its context by unmistakable criteria of the style of P . . . "

p. lxii "He (P) is concerned solely with events, not with causes or motives."

Illustrations from "P" which contradict this:

1. 13.6 And the land could not bear them so that they might dwell together, for their possessions were great, and they were not able to dwell together. So they separated from one another . . .
2. 16.1, 3 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid . . . and gave her to Abram
3. 17.4,5 ". . . my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be the father of a multitude of nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for the father of a multitude of nations have I made thee.."
4. 17.14 "... the uncircumcised male . . . shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant."
5. "she (Sarah) shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be of her. Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed . . . And Abraham said unto God, Oh that Ishamel might live before thee! 17.17,18
6. And God said, Nay, but Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son; and thou shalt call his name Isaac 17.19
7. 17.20, 21 "And as for Ishamel, I have heard thee . . . But my covenant will I establish with Isaac . . .
8. He that is born in thy house . . . must needs be circumcised . . . And Abraham took Ishamel his son, and all that were born in his house, . . . and drcumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the selfsame day, as God has said unto him. 17.13, 23f
9. 21.4 And Abraham circumcised Isaac his son when he was 8 days old, as God had commanded him.