

the work of the writer of the Priestly Code by P C, that of the first Jehovist by J¹, the second Jehovist by J², the Elohist by E, the passages in which it is impossible to distinguish between the Elohist and second Jehovist by J E, and the work of the "redactor," or final editor, by R.

"There went in two and two (J²), male and female (R), to Noah into the ark, as (J²) Elohim (R) had commanded Noah. And at the expiration of the seven days, there came the waters of the flood upon the earth (J²). In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened (P C). And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights" (J²).

The next four verses were written by the author of the Priestly Code, except the last five words, "and Jehovah shut him in," which are by the hand of J². We append ver. 17, which contains a striking instance of the minuteness of modern critical analysis, and the confidence with which its remarkable results are presented. It has been discovered that the sources of ver. 17 are as follows :—

"And the flood was (P C) forty days (R) upon the earth (P C). And the waters increased and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth" (J²).

The next four verses are by the author of the Priestly Code. Vers. 22, 23 are by the second Jehovist, down to the words "face of the ground." Then the final editor takes up his parable, and adds, "both man, and cattle, and creeping thing, and fowl of the heaven, and they were destroyed from the earth." The remainder of the verse is by the hand of the second Jehovist, and a paragraph from the author of the Priestly Code concludes the chapter.

Another instance of the perfection to which modern methods of critical analysis claim to have attained may be extracted from Gen. xxi.

¹ "And Jehovah visited Sarah as He had said (J²), and (P C) Jehovah (R) did unto Sarah as He had spoken (P C).

¹ The "redactor" is responsible for the word "Jehovah" only.