Mark Daniel Kashian

Professor Bandstra

04/20/16

Religion Project Paper:

The project that was presented to me stated that I needed to use multiple texts and compare them in any way possible. If we look at Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Genesis 2:4-25 from the New International Version, both passages refer to two different creation stories that seem to say the same thing in different ways. The documentary hypothesis behind these two texts states that biblical scholars believed that there were three reasons that lead to the idea that these texts were parallel to each other. The three reasons that were stated were:

1) Narrative Inconsistencies and Content Differences

2) Differences in Vocabulary, Literary Style, and Structure

3) Theological Differences/Differences in Theological Emphases.

The significance of these biblical scholars reasoning was there was a difference in text by using priestly or shown as P and yahwist or shown as J. When going over these texts we see that scholars noticed that the first creation story listed was using priestly texts while the second creation story in Genesis was using yahwist text. The order of creation in P found that first came plants, animals and then man and woman together, while in J the order was man, plants, animals, and then woman separately. Not only this but there are other clear differences between the two texts that make them appear very different. One of these clear differences are in the Priestly texts there was a no identification of the Garden of Eden and tree of life and the tree of knowledge and many more divine terminology, while the Yahwist text had all of the above topics and more as it’s dominate of the texts. Biblical scholars believe that the Yahwist text in the second Genesis creation story is just a further explanation of the Priestly text of the first Genesis creation story.

When running the program that I made, I found that in comparing the Genesis creation stories to all of Isaiah, there were clusters of the creation story found in Isaiah. Some of the evidence that I found was the idea of creation in various locations in Isaiah, when looking up the terms of creating and forming we can see in the following that everyone of these sentences has one of the two words in it. The significance of this is that we can clearly see that there is a correlation between the creation story and Isaiah.

Cluster of Isaiah passages found:

Isaiah 27:11 -- When its boughs are withered, they will be broken off; The women come and set them on fire. For it is a people of no understanding; Therefore, He who made them will not have mercy on them, And He who formed them will show them no favor.

Isaiah 29:16 -- Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

Isaiah 37:16 -- "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, you are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

Isaiah 40:28 -- Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

Isaiah 42:5 -- Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it:

Isaiah 43:1 -- But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

Isaiah 43:7 -- Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

Isaiah 43:10 -- "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.

Isaiah 43:15 -- I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King."

Isaiah 44:2 -- Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

Isaiah 44:21 -- "Remember these, O Jacob, And Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me!

Isaiah 44:24 -- Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;

Isaiah 45:7 -- I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.'

Isaiah 45:9 -- "Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'?

Isaiah 45:12 -- I have made the earth, And created man on it. I; My hands; stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded.

Isaiah 45:18 -- For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.

Isaiah 48:7 -- They are created now and not from the beginning; And before this day you have not heard them, Lest you should say, 'Of course I knew them.'

Isaiah 49:5 -- "And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, So that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, And My God shall be My strength),

Isaiah 65:17 -- "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.

Isaiah 65:18 -- But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy.

The python script that I created functions in various ways, these ways consist in three different ways. The program is organized so that when you run the code you reply to the code what you would want to know. This is explained by one of three options.

1. File Compare
2. Occurrence Count
3. Top 10 words
4. Occurrence Count Inside a Book

Number one lets you compare two text files that you want to match up with each other and when these files are compared it will show various symbols to let you know whether the text is similar or different. The second number lets you count how many times a word of your choice is found in the two text files of the creations stories in Genesis. The reason why this is nice because if you want to search for the word ‘Earth’, the program will run through the texts in the program so in this case the creation stories and find how many times ‘Earth’ occurs. This is a good way to identify what type of wording is mentioned in the passage and can give you a good sense all much of each type of word is mentioned in the creation stories. The third number lists the top ten words that are most common amongst the two texts and this helps us understand what the main themes are in the two texts, showing us that creation and God are both important parts of these passages in the bible. The fourth number let’s choose a word of your choice and then asks you for a book of your choice and when you input this two things the output prints all versus with that selected word in all of that book.

The graphs below is all the word data that I found when running my program:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Text 1 and Text 2 Common Wording | | |  |
| Common Word 1: | God | Number of Occurrence: | 43 |
| Common Word 2: | man | Number of Occurrence: | 14 |
| Common Word 3: | earth | Number of Occurrence: | 13 |
| Common Word 4: | said | Number of Occurrence: | 13 |
| Common Word 5: | day | Number of Occurrence: | 12 |
| Common Word 6: | good | Number of Occurrence: | 12 |
| Common Word 7: | lord | Number of Occurrence: | 11 |
| Common Word 8: | according | Number of Occurrence: | 10 |
| Common Word 9: | light | Number of Occurrence: | 10 |
| Common Word 10: | sky | Number of Occurrence: | 9 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Text 3 and Text 4 Common Wording | | |  |
| Common Word 1: | said | Number of Occurrence: | 389 |
| Common Word 2: | God | Number of Occurrence: | 234 |
| Common Word 3: | father | Number of Occurrence: | 231 |
| Common Word 4: | Jacob | Number of Occurrence: | 191 |
| Common Word 5: | Joseph | Number of Occurrence: | 168 |
| Common Word 6: | LORD | Number of Occurrence: | 151 |
| Common Word 7: | sons | Number of Occurrence: | 138 |
| Common Word 8: | son | Number of Occurrence: | 133 |
| Common Word 9: | land | Number of Occurrence: | 127 |
| Common Word 10: | Abraham | Number of Occurrence: | 126 |

The importance of the data found up above is that texts 1 and 2 and texts 3 and 4 have similar wording of God and said which most likely means the sentences started with God said. However, as we can see texts 3 and 4 this is a large number of LORD’s found while texts 1 and 2 only have God. This is significant because most of Isaiah refers to God as LORD God instead of just God that was found in Genesis creation stories. The creations stories in Genesis top words consists of wording that is correlated with God creating things, while the rest of Genesis and Isaiah mostly refers to names and sons of people in the bible.

Knowing that there is a difference in wording between the two paired texts, we can justify that all of Genesis and Isaiah that it talks a little about the creation story but mostly talks about how the LORD God was in the presence of all these named men mentioned. However, the passages in the first two texts of the creation stories in Genesis, only refer to things that God created and formed and everything was good and positive. We can declare this because one of the top words that was listed was ‘good’ and ‘God’, showing that God is good and that he created good.