

# The Documentary Hypothesis: A Comparison

| Proponent             | Sources  | Date (BCE)          | Origin  |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|---|
| <b>Wellhausen</b>     | <b>J</b> YHWH divine name  | 850                 | Southern kingdom of Judah                                 |
|                       | <b>E</b> Elohim divine name  | 750                 | Northern kingdom of Israel                                |
|                       | <b>RJE</b> (Redactor)  | 650                 | Judah, when exiles came from Israel                       |
|                       | <b>D</b> Deuteronomy   | 621                 | Judah, during King Josiah's reforms                       |
|                       | <b>RD</b> (Redactor)   | 550                 | During the Babylonian exile                               |
|                       | <b>P</b> Priestly  | 450                 | Judah, after Babylonian exile                             |
|                       | <b>RP</b> (Redactor) » <b>JEDP</b><br>Extant Pentateuch  | 400<br>200          | Judah<br>Judah  |
| <b>Friedman</b>       | <b>J</b> YHWH  | 922-722             | Judah, during time of Divided Kingdom                     |
|                       | <b>E</b> Elohim  | 922-722             | Israel, during time of Divided Kingdom                    |
|                       | <b>RJE</b> (Redactor)  | post-722            | Judah, after exile of the North                           |
|                       | <b>P</b> Priestly  | post-722            | Jerusalem, King Hezekiah's reign                          |
|                       | <b>D</b> Deuteronomy— <b>Dtr 1</b><br><b>Dtr 2</b>   | 640-609<br>post-587 | Judah, King Josiah's reign<br>During the Babylonian exile |
|                       | <b>R</b> (Redactor) » <b>JEPR</b>  | 450                 | Jerusalem   |
| <b>Recent Studies</b> |  |                     |   |
| <b>J</b>              | <b>Extent:</b> Long thought to be composite in nature, including an <b>L</b> or <b>N</b> source. More and more is being credited to <b>J</b> , usually at the expense of <b>E</b> and sometimes at the expense of <b>P</b> .<br><b>Date:</b> Early on <b>J</b> was being dated earlier and earlier, but now later and later because of its supposed affinity with <b>D</b> . |                     |   |
| <b>E</b>              | <b>Extent:</b> Most of <b>J</b> 's growth has been at the expense of <b>E</b> ; as time goes on, <b>E</b> is more difficult to see as distinct from <b>J</b> . Many question as to whether <b>E</b> is an independent document at all.   |                     |   |
| <b>P</b>              | <b>Extent:</b> Is <b>P</b> a source or an editorial supplement? <b>P</b> has also been encroached upon by <b>J</b> .<br><b>Date:</b> Has been regarded as the later source, but now being seen as earlier than <b>D</b> according to stylistic traits.   |                     |   |
| <b>D</b>              | <b>Extent and Date:</b> Restricted to the book of Deuteronomy and does not play a major role in the process of distinguishing the other sources, except with respect to relative dating. Connected more with what follows than with what precedes. Deuteronomy is the beginning of a seven-book work called the Deuteronomistic history.                                     |                     |   |

## Biblical Timeline (BCE)

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 1446        | Exodus (early date)   |
| 1290        | Exodus (late date)  |
| 1450 - 1410 | Writing of Pentateuch by Moses in the Wilderness (early date) |
| 1400        | Death of Moses  |
| 1043 - 1011 | Reign of Saul   |
| 1011 - 970  | Reign of David  |
| 970 - 931   | Reign of Solomon  |
| 931 - 722   | Divided Kingdom   |
| 722         | Fall of Northern Kingdom of Israel                            |
| 716 - 687   | Reign of Hezekiah   |
| 640 - 609   | Reign of Josiah   |
| 622         | Book found during reign of Josiah                             |
| 605 / 586   | Fall and exile of Southern Kingdom of Judah                   |
| 538         | Decree of Cyrus II after capture of Babylon                   |
| 538         | First return of exiles to Judah with Ezra                     |
| 515         | Temple completed  |
| 457 / 444   | Second and third returns of exiles to Judah                   |