

The Documentary Hypothesis: A Comparison

Proponent	Sources	Date (BCE)	Origin
Wellhausen	J YHWH divine name	850	Southern kingdom of Judah
	E Elohim divine name	750	Northern kingdom of Israel
	RJE (Redactor)	650	Judah, when exiles came from Israel
	D Deuteronomy	621	Judah, during King Josiah's reforms
	RD (Redactor)	550	During the Babylonian exile
	P Priestly	450	Judah, after Babylonian exile
	RP (Redactor) » JEDP Extant Pentateuch	400 200	Judah Judah
Friedman	J YHWH	922-722	Judah, during time of Divided Kingdom
	E Elohim	922-722	Israel, during time of Divided Kingdom
	RJE (Redactor)	post-722	Judah, after exile of the North
	P Priestly	post-722	Jerusalem, King Hezekiah's reign
	D Deuteronomy— Dtr 1 Dtr 2	640-609 post-587	Judah, King Josiah's reign During the Babylonian exile
	R (Redactor) » JEPD	450	Jerusalem
Recent Studies			
J	Extent: Long thought to be composite in nature, including an L or N source. More and more is being credited to J , usually at the expense of E and sometimes at the expense of P . Date: Early on J was being dated earlier and earlier, but now later and later because of its supposed affinity with D .		
E	Extent: Most of J 's growth has been at the expense of E ; as time goes on, E is more difficult to see as distinct from J . Many question as to whether E is an independent document at all.		
P	Extent: Is P a source or an editorial supplement? P has also been encroached upon by J . Date: Has been regarded as the later source, but now being seen as earlier than D according to stylistic traits.		
D	Extent and Date: 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