

A Diagram of the Sources of the Pentateuch

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Chart design executed by Karen Arbour

The Pentateuch is the Jewish Torah, a Divinely inspired communal document with contributors traditionally identified in four clusters of sources, J, E, D and P (see legend), with various subsets, H, R and others. The latest of these to be identified is Z, with traces of Zoroastrianism. The priestly tradition, P, for example, originated in Jerusalem among elite temple priestly scholars descended from Aaron. After regaining status among the exiles in Babylon, the priests continued work and flourished under Persian monarchs well disposed toward them, possibly in creative tension with Zoroastrian priests who shared their monotheism at that time. In the Return to Jerusalem, they finished their work under Ezra, who published J, E and D integrated with P in the name of Moses. P may then have included the Z subset of eastern lore and sacred Vedic material. This Z factor connects the Hebrew Scriptures indirectly but significantly with Hinduism and Buddhism. The Z factor is exemplified in Leviticus, Chapters 1-10, featuring fire sacrifices.

Much like Deuteronomy, Leviticus is distinct and discrete, between book-ends from P at the end of Exodus and the start of Numbers. Revealed in Babylon & completed in the Return, Leviticus may illustrate desert rites and 1st Temple worship, but may also foreshadow priestly sacrifices of the 2nd Temple, then under construction, integrating the perpetual fire from Zoroastrianism (unique in the Torah) and H, the Hebrew Holiness Code.

GENESIS	
1	1-31 Time begins as God creates.
2	1-4a The sabbatical principle.
	4b-25 Adam & Eve; Garden of Eden.
3	1-24 Temptation, sin, expulsion.
4	1-26 Cain & Abel; Corporate worship
5	1-31 Descendants of Adam
6	1-8 Wickedness; Noah finds favor
	9-22 God commissions Noah
7	1-5, 7,10,12,16b-20, 22-23 An ark
	8-9, 11, 13-16a, 21, 24 The flood
8	1-2a, 3b-5, 7, 13a, 14-19 Dry land
	2b-3a, 6, 8-12, 13b, 20-22 An altar
9	1-17 Noahic Covenant; the rainbow
	18-27 The curse of Ham
	28-29 Years measured by moons
10	1-7, 20, 22-23, 31-32 Sons of Noah
	8-19, 21, 24-30 Ethnic Identities
11	1-9 Tower of Babel
	10-27a, 32 Genealogies
	27b-31 The Father of Abram
12	1-4a, 6-20 Abraham's call
	4b -5 Dates and possessions
13	1-5, 7-11a, 12b-18 Lot moves on
	6, 11b-12a Travelogue
14	1-24 Abraham and Melchizedek
15	1-21 Promise and covenant
16	1-2, 4-14 Birth of Ishmael
	3, 15-16 Calendar
17	1-27 Covenant and circumcision
18	1-33 Visitation and intercession
19	1-28, 30-38 Destruction of Sodom
	29 Lot's escape
20	1-18 Deception regarding Sarah
21	1- 2a, 33 Promise to Sarah fulfilled
	2b-5 Birth of Isaac
	6-32, 34 Hagar dismissed/Beersheba
22	1-10, 16-19 Offering of Isaac
	11-15, 20-24 God intervenes
23	1-20 Sarah buried at Machpelah
24	1-67 Isaac and Rebecca
25	1-6 Tribal rivalries
	7-11a, 12-17, 20 Jacob and Esau
	11b, 18 Birth and youth
26	1-33 Doublet of Sarah and Rebecca
	34-35 Hittite connections
27	1-45 Deception of Isaac
	46 Hittite rejection
28	1-9 Jacob departs to Laban
	10-11a, 13-16, 19 Jacob's ladder
	11b-12, 17-18, 20-22 Tithes
29	1-35 Jacob's wives and children
30	1a, 4a, 24b-43 Jacob vs. Laban
	1b-3, 4b-24a Joseph is born
	1-2, 4-16, 19-48, 50-55 Jacob de-
31	parts
	3, 17-18a, 49 with wives and children
	18b To return to Canaan
32	1-3, 14-33 Wrestling with God
	4-13 Confronting Esau
33	1-20 Reconciliation
34	1-31 Rape of Diana
35	1-8, 16-20 Birth of Benjamin
	9-15, 23-29 Jacob becomes Israel
	21-22 The sin of Reuben
36	1-30 Descendants of Esau
	31-43 Kings of Edom
37	1-2a Jacob becomes a nation
	2b,3b, 5-11, 19-20, 23 Joseph's dream
	3a, 4, 12-18, 21-22, 24 Colorful coat
	25b-27,28b,31-35Saved by Midianites
	25a, 28a, 29,30,36 Sold to Ishmaelites
38	1-30 Tamar's vindication
39	1-23 Joseph falsely imprisoned
40	1-23 Interprets dreams there
41	1-45a, 46b-57 Favor with Pharaoh
	45b-46a Rises to rule
42	1-4, 8-20, 26-34, 38 Interrogation
	5-7, 21-25, 35-37 Gift of grain
43	1-13, 15-17, 24-34 Benjamin
	14, 18-23 Reconnected with brothers
44	1-34 Entrapment of brothers
45	1-2, 4-28 Joseph reveals his identity
	3 Terror and reconciliation
46	1-5a Jacob goes to Egypt
	5b, 28-34 Family settles in Egypt
	6-27 Descendants of Jacob
47	1-6, 11-27a, 29-31 Hebrews flourish
	7-10 Jacob blesses Pharaoh
	27b-28 Joseph's promise to Jacob
48	1-22 Covenant extended
49	1-27 Jacob blesses his sons
	28 The twelve tribes of Israel
	29-33 The death of Jacob
50	1-11, 14, 22 Burial of Jacob
	12-13 at Machpelah near Mamre
	15-21, 23-26 Joseph is embalmed

EXODUS	
1	1-5 Israel in Egypt
	6,22 Death of Joseph
	7, 13-14 Oppression and slavery
	8-12, 15-21 Male infants to die
2	1-23a Moses birth, crime, flight
	23b-25 God hears Israel groan
3	1-22 Burning bush
4	1-18, 20b-23, 27-31 Moses equipped
	19-20a, 24-26 Moses' faithful wife
5	1-2 Let my people go
	3-23, 6:1 God promises deliverance
6	1-30 Moses is discouraged
7	1-13, 19-20a, 21b-22 Miracles
	14-18, 20b-21a, 23-29 Plagues begin
8	1-3a, 12-15 Frogs, gnats
	3b-11, 16-28 and flies
9	1-7, 13-35 Cattle die, hail, fire
	8-12 Boils on Egyptians
10	1-29 Locusts and darkness
11	1-10 Firstborn to die
12	1-20, 28, 40-49 The passover
	21-27, 29-36, 37b-39 Exodus begins
	37a, 50-51 Travelogue
13	1-19 Moses' desert speech
	20 Travelogue
	21-22 Pillars of cloud and fire
14	1-4, 8, 9b-10a, 10c, 15-18 Pursuit
	5-7, 9a,10b, 13-14, 19b Encouraged
	11-12, 19a, 20a, 25a Egypt stuck
	21a, 21c-23 Red Sea parted
	20b, 21b, 24, 25b, 27b, 30-31 Saved
15	1-18, 22b-25a Song of Moses
	19, 22a, 27 Song of Miriam
	20-21, 25b-26 Bitter made sweet
16	1 Travelogue
	2-3, 6-35a, 36 Manna and meat
	4-5, 35b God's promise
17	1 Travelogue
	2-16 Water from rock
18	1-27 Judges established
19	1 Calendar
	2a Travelogue
	2b-9, 16b-17, 19 Moses speaks
	10-16a, 18, 20-25 God speaks
20	1-17 Ten Commandments
	18-26 Altar laws
21	1-27 Slaves, murder, injury
22	1-30 Property and duty
23	1-33 Ethics and aliens
24	1-14, 18a Covenant in blood
	15-18 Mountain of glory
25	1-40 The Ark of the Covenant
26	1-37 Tabernacle plans
27	1-27 Altar laws
28	1-43 Priestly vestments
29	1-46 Ordination
30	1-38 Anointing and incense
31	1-18 Sabbath observance
32	1-35 The Golden Calf
33	1-23 Covenant renewal
34	1-35Stone tablets/Moses'face radiant
35	1-35 Building supplies
36	1-38 Framing the tabernacle
37	1-29 Construction of furnishings
38	1-31 Altar and court
39	1-43 Bejeweling the vestments
40	1-38 Consecrating the tabernacle

LEVITICUS	
1	1-17 Introduction of fire sacrifices
2	1-16 Grain offering by fire sacrifice
3	1-17 Animal offering by fire sacrifice
4	1-35 Bovine specific fire sacrifice
5	1-26 Lamb, goat & bird fire sacrifice
6	1-23 Sacrificial fire to be eternal
7	1-38 Priestly portions of fire sacrifice
8	1-36 Consecrated by fire sacrifice
9	1-25 Chief priest's fire sacrifice
10	1-20 Unholy error in fire sacrifices
11	1-47 Purification of animals
12	1-8 Purification of women
13	1-59 Regulations for skin diseases
14	1-57 Purification for skin diseases
15	1-33 Venereal Disease Regulation
16	1-34 The Day of Atonement
17	1-16 Kosher regulations
18	1-30 Sexual relations regulations
19	1-37 Holiness and charity
20	1-27 Penalties for sin
21	1-24 Regulations for priests
22	1-33 Acceptable offerings
23	1-38, 44 High holy days
	39-43 The Festival of Booths
24	1-23 Regulations for rituals
25	1-55 Sabbatical and Jubilee years
26	1-46 Blessings and curses
27	1-34 Vows and tithes

NUMBERS	
1	1-54 Census numbers
2	1-34 Camps, tribes, leaders
3	1 Descendants of Moses and Aaron
	2-51 Numbering of Levites
4	1-49 Service of Levites
5	1-31 Regulations in camp
6	1-27 Nazarites/Hebrew benediction
7	1-89 Dedication of the altar
8	1-26 Preparations to leave Sinai
9	1-14 A final Passover
	15-23 The cloud of guidance
10	29-36 The ark in the vanguard
11	1-35 Complaining of the people
12	1-16 Mutiny among leaders
13	1-16, 21-22, 25-26, 32 Twelve spies
	17-20, 23-24, 27-31, 33 Caleb
14	1a, 2-3, 5-10, 26-38 Rebellion
	1b, 4, 11-25, 39-45 Judgment
15	1-41 Offerings and stonings
16	1a, 2b-11, 15-24, 26-27a, 32b,35 Fire
	1b-2a,12-14,25,27b-32a,33-34 Sheol
17	1-28 Budding of Aaron's rod
18	1-32 Distinguishing priests/ Levites
19	1-22 Cleansing ritual
20	1a, 22 Travelogue
	1b-13, 23-29 Miriam and Aaron die
	14-21 Opposition from Edom
21	1-3, 12-35 Marching
	5-9 The bronze serpent
	4, 10-11, 22:1 Victories
22	2-41 A rival in Moab
23	1-30 Balaam's blessings
24	1-25 Balaam's prophesy
25	1-5 Sexual misadventures
	6-19 resulting in a plague
26	1-65 Second census
27	1-23 Inheritance to daughters
28	1-31 Review of offerings
29	1-39 Review of festivals
30	1-17 Regulation of vows
31	1-54 Victory and booty
32	1-42 East Bank settlements
33	1-49 Travelogue
	50-56 Movement into West Bank
34	1-29 Boundaries of Promised Land
35	1-34 Cities for Levites and refugees
36	1-13 Lands of female heirs

DEUTERONOMY	
1	1-46 Moses recalls God's guidance
2	1-37 The years in the wilderness
3	1-29 Moses excluded from the land
4	1-24, 32-49 Exhortations by Moses
	25-31 regarding God's faithfulness
5	1-30 Ten Commandments covenant
6	1-25 The purpose of the law
7	1-26 Israel's special status
8	1-18 Admonition against pride
	19-20 Israel like other nations
9	1-29 Israel's sins
10	1-21 God's unique requirement
11	1-32 Teaching the children
12	1-31 The temple foretold
13	1-19 Idolatry not tolerated
14	1-29 A tithe of production
15	1-22 Slaves to be set free
16	1-22 Passover emphasis
17	1-20 The role of kings
18	1-22 Levites defined as priests
19	1-21 Criminal law
20	1-20 Military service
21	1-23 Miscellaneous laws
22	1-29 Responsibility of neighbors
23	1-26 Exclusions from citizenship
24	1-22 Incidental laws
25	1-19 Sentences and punishments
26	1-15 Offerings and thanksgivings
	16-19 Moses urges obedience
27	1-26 The covenant renewed
28	1-35, 38-62, 69 Curses of disobedience
	36-37, 63-68 Prophecies of exile
29	1-20, 28 Exhortations & punishments
	21-27 Prophecies of exile
30	1-10, 15-20 Repentance = blessings
	11-14 God's word is present
31	1-13, 24-27 Book entrusted to Levites
	14-15, 23 Joshua commissioned
	16-22, 28-30 Moses sings and recites
32	1-44 A song composed by Moses
	45-47 Plea to memorize words
	48-52 God prepares Moses to die
33	1 Ascription of blessing to Moses
	2-27 Ancient blessing
34	1-6 Death and burial of Moses
	7 Moses' vitality in old age
	8-9 Israel mourns Moses
	10-12 Moses was unique

J Materials in pink used the name *Yahweh (Jehovah)* for God and were written about 900 BCE by someone in King David’s literary family, possibly including aristocratic women with literary skill, or by members of the Jerusalem establishment.

E Materials in green, using an ancient generic word *El* or *Eloh* (Arabic “Allah”) for God, were written after 850 BCE in the Northern Kingdom of Israel as a reply to **J** by Levites. After Israel’s conquest by the Assyrians, Levites refugees moved south to Judah, where they may have edited JE together as their entrée into life in Jerusalem.

D Deuteronomy, blue (“Second Law”), written after the popular **JE**, again by Levites who had memorized the speeches of Moses, including Commandments (above in **bold**), with annotations (*italics*) “found” in the temple during King Josiah’s renovations, with slight touch-ups later giving all traditional sources a stake in this most sacred text.

P Temple priests began to produce sophisticated theological documents (gold) to respond to **JE** and **D** scrolls. Then Judah was conquered, resulting in the 587 BCE Babylon Exile. Jewish aristocrats, political elites and priests were enslaved, rising eventually into the Empire’s civil service. Priests continued the work, especially during and following the rule of Cyrus the Great, a Zoroastrian monotheist, seen by Isaiah as the “Messiah,” one of several theological constructs inspired in creative tension with Zoroasterianism.

R Cyrus and his successors sponsored a return to Jerusalem. Aristocrats, civil servants and priests re-joined farmers, Levites and others to rebuild the temple, city, and state of Judah. Under Ezra, a “redactor” or editor-in-chief, the documents and source materials in the P tradition were fused together with the **JE** and **D** collections (obvious splices in grey) to provide the nation with a unified spiritual vision, the Torah, identified as *The Law of Moses*, a literary and spiritual masterpiece, recognized as *The Word of God* in later scriptures, Hebrew, Christian and Muslim.

For a complete graphic overview see also the maps of the travels of Jesus on page 195 and the inside back cover chart *A Diagram of Previous Revelations Confirmed in the Quran*.