



*Michelangelo, The Flood, Sistine Ceiling*

## **Session 2: Feb 18: Documentary Hypothesis; The Flood; Tower of Babel**

*Assignment:*

Kugel, p.40-41 (Education . . .)

Larue on the Documentary Hypothesis [[link](#)]

Source Criticism and the Documentary Hypothesis [[link](#)]

Kugel, p.296-316 (P and D)

Genesis 5:22-24 (Enoch)

Genesis 6:1-4 (Nephilim)

Genesis 6:5-9:29 (Noah and the Flood)

Kugel p.70-80 (The Great Flood)

J and P in columns and color-coded [[link to webpage](#)] (scroll down)

Kugel, p. 82-88 (The Tower of Babel)

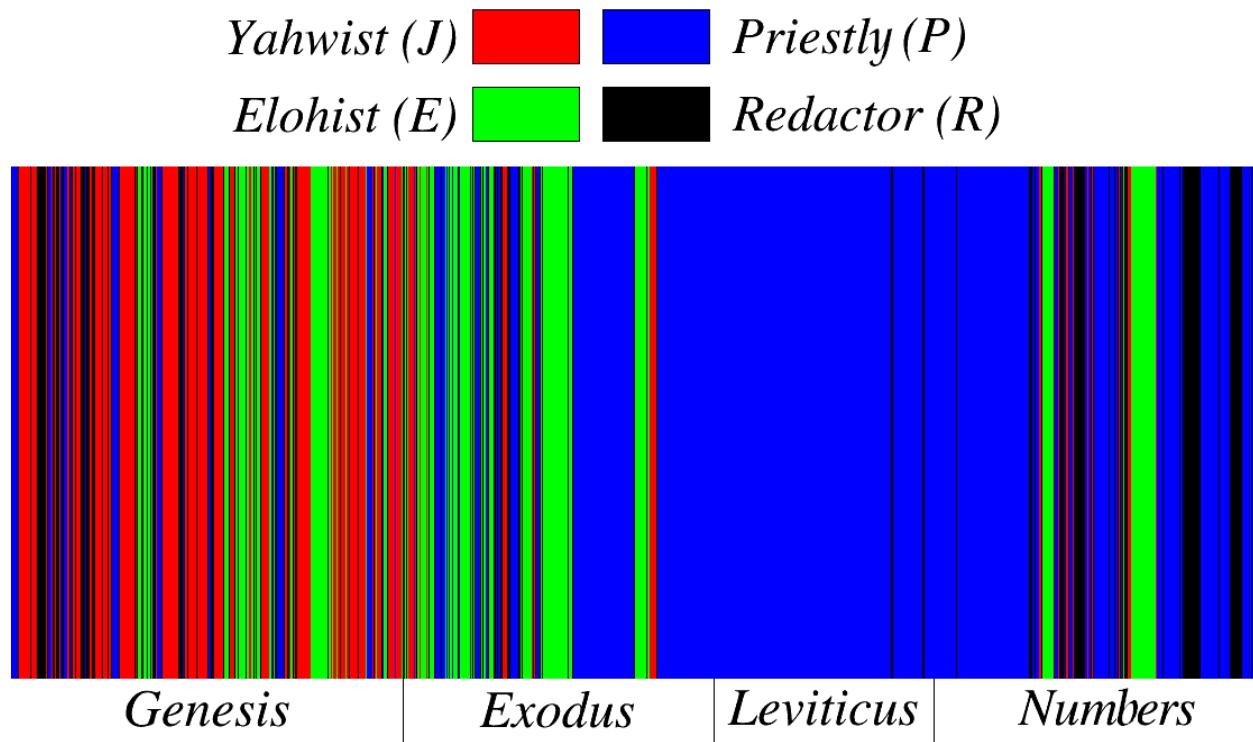
Questions for discussion [[link](#)]

### **The Documentary Hypothesis**

As suggested in the readings, the Documentary Hypothesis that the Torah consists of four sources composed at different times is no longer disputed by

scholars. The lingering disputes are about the dating of the sources, with the most recent assertions dating the P material as pre-exilic and perhaps preceding the D material. We won't go there and will be content to have the basic idea!

Here's a nice representation of the way the four sources are distributed. Note that Deuteronomy is absent because it's all from D, as are the following books from Joshua through 2 Kings, collectively called the Deuteronomistic History.



## The Nephilim

These four verses which precede the flood story are some of the most obscure in the bible. Clearly, most of the story has been lost along the way. We should take away the idea that there is no distinct separation of the divine from the earthly and that divine-human procreation is clearly a possibility. This of course parallels Greek mythology in which many heroes are the offspring of a god and a human with Achilles being perhaps the most famous example.

## Covenants: Noahide, Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic

There are four covenants in the bible with which we'll deal. We've now seen the first, the covenant made by God with Noah and all living creatures. Be certain to discover the sign of this covenant and its terms!