

Religion 101: Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
University of Rochester
Department of Religion and Classics

Reading Guide for the Torah/Pentateuch
(J=Yahwist, E=Elohist, P=Priestly Source)

The following chart lists the sections of the Torah attributable to its constituent sources. You should use it as a guide to your reading assignments in the Bible for the first part of the course that focuses on the Torah (=Pentateuch). "J" stands for the Yahwist, "E" for the Elohist, and "P" for the Priestly Editor. Texts in square brackets belong to a source other than one of the three major sources

Reading extended sections of one source, as you are required to do in this class, means skipping over sections attributed to other sources. It can be frustrating to keep looking back and forth between this guide and the Bible to make sure that you are reading the right verses, and it can make a source which was once a continuous narrative seem chopped up (which in fact it now is!). One way to alleviate this problem is to go through your biblical text with this guide at your side and mark each source in the margin with a different colored pen or pencil (e.g. red, green, and blue). This might seem like a big job, but it is an invaluable exercise. In the first place, once you have marked your text, you will be able to read along in one source rather easily simply by following your color scheme in the margin. Second, the exercise itself is an excellent learning experience; it will reinforce in your mind which texts belong to which source. Third, it will leave you with a study Bible that you can use the rest of your life when you wish to locate specific texts in the Pentateuch in their original literary context and its thought world.

This division of sources represents in large part the consensus that has developed among scholars in the last 100 years about the sources in the Pentateuch. There are always some differences in detail (e.g., in some cases different scholars may attribute a particular text to different sources, differences in the ways in which different editions of the Bible number chapter & verse, etc.). Some examples of scholars who have developed their own charts include Martin Noth and Bernard Anderson in *A History of Pentateuchal Traditions*, and Richard Friedman in *Who Wrote The Bible*.

GENESIS	J	E	P
Creation	2:4b - 3:24		1:1 - 2:4a
Cain & Abel	4:1-16		
Cain's Genealogy	4:17-26		
Adam's Genealogy			5:1-28
	5:29		
			5:30-32
Heroes	6:1-4		
Flood	6:5-8		
			6:9-22
	7:1-5		
			7:6
	7:7		
			7:8-9
	7:10		
	7:12		
			7:13-16a
	7:16b-17		
			7:18-21
	7:22-23		
			7:24
			8:1-2a
	8:2b-3a		
			8:3b-5
	8:6		
			8:7
	8:8-12		
			8:13a
	8:13b		
			8:14-19
	8:20-22		
Covenant With Noah			9:1-17
Curse on Canaan	9:18-27		
			9:28-29
Genealogy of Noah & Sons			10:1-7
	10:8-19		
			10:20
	10:21		
			10:22-23
	10:24-30		
			10:31-32
Tower of Babel	11:1-9		
Genealogy of Shem			11:10-27
Abram and Nahor	11:28-30		

GENESIS	J	E	P
Abraham's Migrations	12:1-4a		12:4b-5
	12:6-9		
Abraham in Egypt	12:10-20		
Abraham and Lot	13:1-5		13:6
	13:7-11a		13:11b-12a
	13:12b-18		
[Special Source: Abraham & The Kings]	[14:1-24]		
Covenant with Abraham	15:1-21		
Hagar and Ishmael	16:1-2		16:3
	16:4-14		16:15-16
Covenant with Abraham			17:1-27
Three Visitors	18:1-33		
Sodom and Gomorrah	19:1-28		19:29
Lot, Moab, and Ammon	19:30-38		
Abraham in Gerar		20:1-17	
	20:18		
Isaac's Birth	21:1-2a		21:2b-6
	21:7		
Hagar and Ishmael		21:8-21	
Abraham, Abimelech, & the Beersheba Wells		21:22-32a	
	21:32b-34		
Binding of Isaac		22:1-14a	
	22:14b-19		
Nabor's Genealogy	22:20-24		
Machpelah Cave			23:1-20
Rebekah	24:1-67		
Keturah's Children	25:1-6		
Abraham's Death; Ishmael's Descendants			25:7-20
Jacob and Esau	25:21-34		
Isaac in Gerar & Beersheba Wells	26:1-33		
Esau's Wives			26:34-35
Blessing of Jacob and Esau	27:1-45		
Jacob Sent to Syria			27:46

GENESIS	J	E	P
Jacob at Bethel	28:10		
	28:13-16	28:11-12	
		28:17-22	
Jacob, Leah, and Rachel	29:1-30		
Jacob's Children	29:31-35		
	30:24	30:1-23	
Jacob's Flocks	30:25-43		
	31:1		
	31:3	31:2	
		31:4-16	
Jacob's Return			31:17-18
		31:19-42	
Treaty with Laban		31:43-48	
	31:49		
		31:50-55	
		32:1-2	
Reunion with Esau	32:3-22		
Wrestling with God	32:23-32		
Reunion with Esau	33:1-17		
Shechem	33:18a		33:18b
		33:19-20	
Dinah	34:1-31		
Jacob in Bethel		35:1-8	
			35:9-15
		35:16-20	
Reuben and Bilhah	35:21-22a		
Jacob's Sons and Isaac's Death			35:22b-29
Esau's Children			36:1-30
	36:31-43		
Joseph Sold			37:1-2
	37:3-4		
		37:5-13	
	37:14ab		
		37:14c-17	
	37:18		
		37:19-22	
	37:23		
		37:24	
	37:25-27		
		37:28a	

GENESIS	J	E	P
			37:28b
		37:29-30	
	37:31-35		
		37:36	
Judah and Tamar	38:1-30		
Potiphar's Wife	39:1-23		
Butler's and Bakers' Dreams		40:1-23	
Pharaoh's Dreams/Joseph's Elevation		41:1-57	
Joseph and Brothers		42:1	
	42:2		
		42:3	
	42:4-5		
		42:6	
	42:7		
		42:8-25	
	42:26-28		
		42:29-37	
	42:38		
	43:1-34		
	44:1-34		
	45:1-2		
		45:3	
	45:4-5a		
		45:5b-15	
Jacob Moves to Egypt	45:16-28		
Jacob's Vision at Beersheba		46:1-4	
	46:5		
			46:6-27
Meeting Pharaoh: Shepherds	46:28-34		
	47:1-6		
			47:7-11
Joseph's Control in Egypt	47:12-26		
			47:27-28
	47:29-31		
Blessings: Ephraim/Manasseh		48:1-2	
			48:3-7
		48:8-22	
[Old Poetry: Blessings on All Sons]	[49:1-28]		
Jacob's Death			49:29-33
Jacob's Burial	50:1-11		
			50:12-13
	50:14		

Reconciliation/Joseph's Death

50:15-26

EXODUS	J	E	P
Family of Jacob			1:1-7
Oppression	1:8-12		1:13-14
		1:15-21	
Moses' Birth and Flight	1:22 2:1-23a		1:23b-25
Revelation at the Mountain		3:1	
	3:2-4a		
		3:4b	
	3:5		
		3:6	
	3:7-8		
		3:9-14	
	3:15-22		
Moses' Protest	4:1-31		
Pharaoh's Harsher Policies	5:1-23 6:1		
Revelation of Name			6:2-13
Israel's Clans			6:14-25
Moses & Aaron & Pharaoh			6:26-30
			7:1-13
The Plagues: Blood	7:14-18		7:19-20a
	7:20b-21a		7:21b-22
	7:23-25		
Frogs	8:1-4		8:5-7a
	8:7b-15a		8:15b
Flies			8:16-19
Swarms	8:20-32		
Pestilence	9:1-7		
Boils			9:8-12
Hails	9:13-34		9:35
Locusts	10:1-19		10:20
Darkness	10:21-26		10:27
	10:28-29		
Death of Firstborn Announced	11:1-9		

EXODUS	J	E	P
Passover			12:1-20
	12:21-27		
Death of Firstborn	12:28-39		
			12:40-51
Unleavened Bread & Consecration of Firstborn			13:1-2
	13:3-16		
Flight Cloud		13:17-19	
Sea	13:20-22		
	14:5-7		14:1-4
			14:8-12
	14:13-14		
	14:19-20		14:15-18
	14:21b		14:21a
	14:24-25		14:21c-23
	14:27b		14:26-27a
	14:30-31		14:27c-29
[Special Source: Old Poem]	[15:1-18]		
			15:19
		15:20-21	
Water: Marah	15:22-23		
	15:25a		15:24
		15:25b-26	
Elim			15:27
Wilderness of Sin			16:1-3
		16:4-5	
Quail and Manna			16:6-36
Rephedim			17:1
Water: Massah and Meribah	17:2-7		
Flight with Amelek		17:8-14	
	17:15-16		
Jethro and Appointment of the Judges		18:1a	
	18:1b		
		18:2-7	
	18:8-11		
		18:12-27	

EXODUS	J	E	P
Mt. Sinai: Theophany			19:1-2a
	19:7-15	19:2b-6	
	19:18	19:16-17	
	19:20-25	19:19	
Ten Commandments			20:1-17
Theophany		20:18-21	
Altar	20:22-26		
[Special Source: Covenant Code]	[21:1-23:-19]		
Canaanites	23:20-33		
Covenant at Sinai		24:1-2	
	24:3-8		
		24:9-15	
		24:18b	24:16-18a
Tabernacle, Sabbath, Tablets			25:1-31:18
Golden Calf		32:1-14	
		32:17-35	32:15-16
Departure Announced	33:1-3a		
Tent of Meeting		33:3b-11	
Theophany to Moses	33:12-23		
Theophany & 10 Commandments	34:1-28		
Moses's Face			34:29-35
Construction of Tabernacle			35:1-40:38

LEVITICUS

Legal Material 1:1 - 27:34

NUMBERS	J	E	P
Census & Laws			1:1 - 10:28
Departure w/the Ark	10:29-36		
Fire of God		11:1-3	
Quail	11:4-13		
Elders/Prophets		11:14	
Quail	11:15		
Elders/Prophets		11:16-17	
Quail	11:18-23		
Elders/Prophets		11:24-30	
Quail	11:31-35		
Miriam, Moses, and Aaron		12:1-16	
Scouting out Canaan:			13:1-16
First Attack	13:17-20		
			13:21
	13:22-24		
			13:25-26
	13:27-31		
			13:32
	13:33		
People Refuse to Attack			14:1a
	14:1b		
			14:2-3
	14:4		
			14:5-10
	14:11-25		
			14:26-38
	14:39-45		
More Laws			15:1-41
Rebellion (P: Korah, : Datha & Abiram)			16:1a
	16:1b-2a		
			16:2b-11
	16:12-15		
			16:16-24
	16:25		
			16:26-27a
	16:27b-32a		
			16:32b
	16:33-34		
			16:35

Aaronids & Levites		16:36 - 18:32
Red Heifer		19:1-22
Water: Meribah		20:1-13
Approach to Canaan	20:14-21	

NUMBERS	J	E	P
Aaron's Death at Mt. Hor			20:22-29
Defeat of Canaanites at Arad	21:1-3		
Serpents		21:4-9	
Itinerary to Pisgah			21:10-20
Defeat of Sihon/ Amorites and Og/Bashan	21:21-35		
Balaam (parts: E & Old Poems)	22:1 - 24:25	(parts)	
Baar Peor	25:1-5		
Midianites			25:6-18
Census			26:1-65
Daughters of Zelophehad			27:1-11
Joshua Appointed			27:12-23
Laws About Worship			28:1 - 29:40
Women's Vows			30:1-16
Midianites			31:1-54
Tribal Allotments			32:1-42
Stations			33:1-49
Tribal Allotments			33:50 - 36:13
DEUTERONOMY = D			1:1 - 34:12