

## REL 1310 – Christian Scriptures

Hello and welcome to the weekly resources for REL-1310!

These resources are structured a bit differently from other online study guides on the Baylor Tutoring website because the content in these courses are organized largely around biblical histories and narratives. Please take a look at other weekly resources listed on our website for additional topics from Christian Scriptures throughout the semester. Your professor might be discussing these topics in a different order than presented here.

We also invite you to take a look at the group tutoring chart on our website to see if this course has a group tutoring session offered this semester.

If you have any questions about these study guides, group tutoring sessions, private 30-minute tutoring appointments, the Baylor Tutoring YouTube channel or any tutoring services we offer, please visit our website [www.baylor.edu/tutoring](http://www.baylor.edu/tutoring) or call our drop-in center during open business hours, M-Th 9am-8pm on class days, at 254-710-4135.

## Documentary Hypothesis

Tradition holds that Moses is the author of the Torah/Pentateuch (the first 5 books of the Bible), but the texts do not say that anywhere explicitly. This has led to the development of a theory, called the Documentary Hypothesis, that seeks to explain the most reasonable sources for authorship of the Torah.

Simply put, the Documentary Hypothesis argues that there are four sources that collectively put the Torah together. These were the Yahwist (Jahwist) source, the Elohist source, the Deuteronomic source, and the Priestly source. Because of these names the Documentary Hypothesis is often called the abbreviated “JEDP.”

### Yahwist (J) Source

- Originated 10<sup>th</sup> Century BCE
- Use of the Hebrew divine name, YHWH
- YHWH represented in anthropomorphic (human-like) characteristics.
- Writes in story form.
- Related to the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
- Begins with creation.
- Called the J Source because the German form of YHWH is “Jahweh”

### Elohist (E) Source

- Originated 9<sup>th</sup> Century BCE
- Use of the name “Elohim” for God

- Stresses the importance of fearing God.
- Related to the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- Begins with Abraham

#### Deuteronomistic (D) Source

- Originated 7<sup>th</sup> Century BCE
- Book of Deuteronomy

#### Priestly (P) Source

- Originated 6<sup>th</sup> Century BCE
- Focuses on ritual law, genealogy, priesthood of Aaron, covenant, sacrifice.
- No mention of a deity