The Creation Stories: Gen 1:1-31 and Gen 2:4b-25

**Genesis 1:1-31** **Genesis 2:4b-25**

Name(s) of God:

Is God remote and
transcendent or
anthropomorphic?
(Gardens, talks *with* his creation,
provides for specific needs, etc.)

Organic flow like a story or
is very structured?

Has several repeated phrases?
List a few

Gives dates/uses
measurements of time?

Uses Poetry?

Based on what we’ve learned, which story do you think belongs to which source?

Note how this theory helps to alleviate the issue surrounding the exact ordering of the creation events leading to an apparent contradiction. See Gen. 2:5-6 and the ordering of Gen. 1. If these chapters were written by only 1 source, would we be able to/ how would we explain this contradiction?

See reverse side for other texts you can examine

**Note**: the R source stands for “Redactor” which we will not get into in detail in this class. Essentially, this is an editor that came in after P and D and helped to make sure that the stories read smoothly, and made sure that all of the texts were constant when put together.

* Creation. Gen. 1:1-31 (P) and Gen. 2:4b-25 (J)
* Abrahams Migration. Gen 12:1-4a (J) and 12:4b-5 (P)
* Abraham wife/sister thing Gen 12:10-20 (J) and 20:1-18 (E) and 26:6-14 (J)
* Abraham and Lot separate Gen 13:5,7-11a, 12b-14 (J) and 13:6, 11b-12a (P)
* The Abrahamic Covenant Gen 15 (J) and 17 (P)
* Prophecy of Isaac’s Birth. Gen 17:16-19 (P) and 26:15-33 (J)
* Jacob’s name changed to Israel. Gen. 32:25-33 (E) and 35:9-10 (P)
* The Passover. Exod. 12:1-20, 28,40-50 (P) and 12:21-27,29-36, 37b-39 (E).
* Manna and quail in the wilderness. Exod. 16:2-3, 6-35a (P) and Num 11:4-3 (E)
* Water from a rock at Meribah. Exod. 17:2-7 (E) and Num 20:2-13 (P)
* The 10 commandments. Exod. 20:1-17 (R) and 34:10-28 (J) and Deut. 5:6-18 (D)
* Forbidden animals. Lev. 11 (P) and Deut. 14 (D)
* Centralization of Sacrifice. Lev. 17 (P) and Deut. 12 (D)
* Holidays. Lev. 23 (P) and Numbers 28-29 (R) and Deut. 16:1-17 (D)
* Appointment of Joshua. Num. 27:12-23 (P) and Deut. 31:14-15,23.
* Heresy at Peor. Num 25:1-5 (J) and 25:6-19 (P).

Check out parts 1-4 for general characteristics between each of the authors. You can use these characteristics to differentiate for yourself which texts belong to which source.