

Ezra/Nehemiah  
Community Presbyterian Church  
Lesson Five Texts  
Who Wrote the Books of Moses?

1. The Documentary Hypotheses teaches that we can see the four documents E, J, P and D in the Torah text.

E = Uses Elohim to speak of God. Written in the Northern Kingdom before 722 BCE

J = Uses YHVH to speak of God. Written in the Southern Kingdom before 722 BCE

D = Written during the reign of King Josiah

P = Emphasizes the role of the priests

2. The Redactor wove the sources together to form the Torah.

3. The people quarreled with Moses. "Give us water to drink," they said; and Moses replied to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you try The Eternal?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" Moses cried out to The Eternal saying, "What shall I do with this people? Before long they will be stoning me!" Then The Eternal said to Moses, "Pass before the people; take with you some of the elders of Israel, and take along the rod with which you struck the Nile, and set out. I will be standing there before you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock and water will issue from it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Exodus 17:2-7

4. The community was without water, and they joined against Moses and Aaron. The people quarreled with Moses, saying, "If only we had perished when our brothers perished at the instance of The Eternal! Why have you brought The Eternal's congregation into this wilderness for us and our beasts to die there? Why did you make us leave Egypt to bring us to this wretched place, a place with no grain or figs or vines or pomegranates? There is not even water to drink!" Moses and Aaron came away from the congregation to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and fell on their faces. The Presence of The Eternal appeared to them, and The Eternal spoke to Moses, saying, "You and your brother Aaron take the rod and assemble the community, and before their very eyes order the rock to yield its water. Thus you shall produce water for them from the rock and provide drink for the congregation and their beasts." Moses took the rod from before The Eternal, as he had been commanded. Moses and Aaron assembled the congregation in front of the rock; and he said to them, "Listen, you rebels, shall we get water for you out of this rock?" And Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod. Out came copious water, and the community and their beasts drank. But The Eternal said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust Me enough to affirm My sanctity in the sight of the Israelite people, therefore you shall not lead this congregation into the land that I have given them.

Numbers 20:2-13

5. And they found written in the Teaching, how that the Eternal had commanded Moses, that the Israelites must dwell in booths during the festival of the seventh month, and that they must announce and proclaim throughout all their towns, and in Jerusalem, as follows 'Go out to the mountains, and bring leafy branches, and branches of olive trees, pine trees and myrtles, palm, and other leafy tress to make booths, as it is written. So the people went out, and brought them, and made themselves booths, on their roofs, in their courtyards, and in the courts of the House of God, and in the square of the Water Gate, and in the square of the gate of Ephraim. The whole community that returned from captivity made booths, and dwelt in the booths - the Israelites had not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day - and there was very great gladness.

Nehemiah 8:14-17

6. These are the set times of The Eternal, the sacred occasions, which you shall celebrate each at its appointed time:

Leviticus 23:4

7. Say to the Israelite people: On the fifteenth day of this seventh month there shall be the Feast of Booths to The Eternal to last seven days. The first day shall be a sacred occasion: you shall not work at your occupations; seven days you shall bring offerings by fire to The Eternal. On the eighth day you shall observe a sacred occasion and bring an offering by fire to The Eternal; it is a solemn gathering: you shall not work at your occupations.

Leviticus 23:33-35

8. Those are the set times of The Eternal that you shall celebrate as sacred occasions.

Leviticus 23:37

9. On the first day you shall take the product of the goodly trees, branches of the palm trees, boughs of the leafy trees and the willows of the brook and you shall rejoice before the Eternal your God seven days ... You shall live in Sukkot seven days; all citizens in Israel shall live in Sukkot in order that future generations may know that I made the Israelite people live in Sukkot when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I the Eternal your God.

Leviticus 23:40. 42-43

10. וְהָיָא סֹפֵר מְהִיר בְּתוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה [V'hu Sofeir Mahir B'torat Moshe] a scribe expert in the Torah of Moses.

Ezra 7:6

