

The following represents a synthesis of my work on distinguishing Priestly and non-Priestly material, summarized in *Reading the Fractures of Genesis: Historical and Literary Approaches* (Louisville: Westminster, 1996) as updated in my *Formation of Genesis 1-11: Biblical and Other Precursors* (New York: Oxford, 2021). This basic distinction is a centuries-long consensus. The main aim of this handout is to visualize what texts in Genesis 1-11 are assigned to the non-P source strand (on the left of the following pages) versus which texts are assigned to the P source strand (in the right column of the following pages). Though these materials are listed in separate blocks, the idea is that the left column materials were together in one non-P strand and the right (Priestly) materials were together in a Priestly strand. In addition, **boldface** text identifies material assigned by many to the editor who interwove these strands. Keep an eye out also on the left column for material about the flood and post-flood events that *might* have been added later to that non-P source prior to being combined with P.

<p>Non-P Story of Y's Initiation of Creation (2:4b-3:24)</p> <p>Creation of first (hu)man, animals, plants and woman (Gen 2:4-25)</p> <p>Disintegration of initial creation bonds from humans becoming too much like God (Gen 3)</p>	<p>Priestly Story of God's Initial Creation Order (1:1-2:3)</p> <p>God's (Elohim's) creation of male and female humans as images of God crowning God's creation of a human biome (Gen 1) and Sabbath-anticipating stop of work (Gen 2:1-3)</p> <p>The label in Gen 2:4a (These are the generations of heaven and earth) is usually assigned to the conflator who brought together non-P and Priestly strands.</p>
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<p>Non-P Adam to Noah Family History/Genealogy</p> <p>Genesis 4 (and 5:28*-29)</p> <p>Adam (4:1-16, 25)</p> <p>Cain (4:17)</p> <p>Enoch (4:18aα)</p> <p>Irada (4:18aβ)</p> <p>Mehujael (4:18bα)</p> <p>Methshael (4:18bβ)</p> <p>Lamech (4:19-24)</p> <p>(Noah son of Lamech in 5:28-29)</p> <p>[Separate genealogical line]</p> <p>Seth (4:25)</p> <p>Enosh (4:26)</p> <p>Noah Gen 5:29 (remnant of birth-name report)</p>	<p>Priestly Adam to Noah Genealogy (section of earlier Toledot book, Gen 5:1)</p> <p>Genesis 5* (scroll of descendents)</p> <p>Adam (5:1-5)</p> <p>Seth (5:6-8)</p> <p>Enosh (5:9-11)</p> <p>Kenan (5:12-14)</p> <p>Mahalalel (5:15-17)</p> <p>Yared (5:18-20)</p> <p>Enoch (5:21-24)</p> <p>Methuselah (5:25-27)</p> <p>Lamech (5:30-31 [P])</p> <p>[Noah 6:9ff.]</p>
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<p>NON-P PROLOGUE TO THE FLOOD (Bold indicates purported insertions by the [Rp] redactor who combined the two strands.) Genesis 6:1 When people began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born to them, 6:2 the sons of God saw that they were fair; and they took wives for themselves of all that they chose. 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My spirit shall not abide in mortals forever, for they are flesh; their days shall be one hundred twenty years." 6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days--and also afterward--when the sons of God went in to the daughters of humans, who bore children to them. These were the heroes that were of old, warriors of renown. 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. 6:6 And the LORD was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 6:7 So the LORD said, "I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created--people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 6:8 But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD.</p>	<p>P PROLOGUE TO THE FLOOD Genesis 6:9 These are the descendants of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. 6:10 And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 6:11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 6:12 And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. (6:9aβb) Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God.</p>
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Non-P Strand of the Flood Instructions	P Strand of the Flood Instructions
<p>7:1 Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. 7:2 Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; 7:3 and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth.</p>	<p>6:13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. 6:14 Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. 6:15 This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 6:16 Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. 6:17 For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. 6:18 But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 6:19 And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. 6:20 Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. 6:21 Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them."</p>

<p>7:4 For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." 7:5 And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.</p>	<p>(compare Gen 6:16: And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth.) 6:22 Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.</p>
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<p>NON-P NARRATIVE OF THE FLOOD+</p> <p>Genesis 7:7 And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 7:8 Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, 7:9 two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. 7:16b and the LORD shut him in 7:10 And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth. 7:12 The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.</p> <p>7:17 The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.</p> <p>7:22 everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. 7:23aα He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, human beings and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; 7:23b Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark.</p> <p>8:2b the rain from the heavens was restrained,</p>	<p>P NARRATIVE OF FLOOD and ITS END Genesis 7:6 Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. 7:13 On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, 7:14 they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind--every bird, every winged creature. 7:15 They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. 7:16a And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; 7:18 The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. 7:19 The waters swelled so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; 7:20 the waters swelled above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. 7:21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; 7:23aβ they were blotted out from the earth. 7:24 And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred fifty days. 8:1 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; 8:2a the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, 8:3b and at the end of one hundred fifty days</p>
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8:3a and the waters gradually receded from the earth.

8:6 At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made 8:7 and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. 8:8 Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; 8:9 but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. 8:10 He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; 8:11 and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. 8:12 Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

8:13 **In the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month**, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying.

the waters had abated; 8:4 and **in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month**, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. 8:5 The waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, **on the first day of the month**, the tops of the mountains appeared.

8:14 In the second month, **on the seventeenth day**, the earth was dry.

8:15 Then God said to Noah, 8:16 "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 8:17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh--birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth--so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

8:18 So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. 8:19 And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

POST-FLOOD DIVINE COMMITMENT TO NOT DESTROY EARTH AGAIN

<p>NON-P</p> <p>8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.</p> <p>8:21 And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odor, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.</p> <p>8:22 As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."</p>	<p>P</p> <p>9:1 God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. 9:2 The fear and dread of you shall rest on every animal of the earth, and on every bird of the air, on everything that creeps on the ground, and on all the fish of the sea; into your hand they are delivered. 9:3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and just as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. 9:4 Only, you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 9:5 For your own lifeblood I will surely require a reckoning: from every animal I will require it and from human beings, each one for the blood of another, I will require a reckoning for human life. 9:6 Whoever sheds the blood of a human, by a human shall that person's blood be shed; for in his own image God made humankind. 9:7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, abound on the earth and multiply in it."</p> <p>9:8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,</p> <p>9:9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 9:10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 9:11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 9:12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 9:13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 9:14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 9:15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 9:16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." 9:17 God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."</p>
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Non-P Continuation

Italicized material in brackets may have been part of the pre-P addition of a flood narrative and other materials to an independent non-P primeval narrative that ended with Noah's grandsons (Gen 10:15, 21*).

Gen. 9:18 The sons of Noah [*who came out of the ark*] were Shem, [*Ham and*] Japheth [*Ham being the father of*] and Canaan. 19 [*These three were Noah's sons and from these the whole earth was peopled.*]

Gen. 9:20 Noah, a tiller of the soil, was the first to plant the vine. 21 He drank some of the wine, and while he was drunk, he lay uncovered in his tent. 22 [*Ham, father of*] Canaan saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. 23 Shem and Japheth took a cloak and they both put it over their shoulders, and walking backwards, covered their father's nakedness; they kept their faces turned away, and they did not look at their father naked. 24 When Noah awoke from his stupor he learned what his youngest son had done to him, 25 and said: Accursed be Canaan, he shall be his brothers' meanest slave. 26 He added: Blessed be Yahweh, God of Shem, let Canaan be his slave! 27 May God make space for Japheth, may he live in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his slave!

Gen. 10:15 Canaan fathered Sidon, his first-born, then Heth,

Gen. 10:21 Shem too fathered sons, being ancestor of all the sons of Eber and Japheth's elder brother.

Additional on non-P materials in Gen 10

The non-P strand includes other material that may have been part of the pre-P addition of the flood, e.g. the Tower of Babel story (Gen 11:1-9), a note about Nimrod and his journey from Babylon to Ashur that originally followed that story (Gen 10:8b-12), and a note about Ham's descendants connected to Egypt (10:13-14). There is also non-P material likely added by the conflator, such as the intro to the Nimrod material (Gen 10:8a), listing of further descendants of Canaan (10:16-19), and material about Shem's offspring (10:24-30).

Priestly Post-Flood Primeval Material

Gen. 10:1 These are the descendants of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, **to whom sons were born after the flood:**

Gen. 10:2 Japheth's sons: Gomer, Magog, the Medes, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, Tiras. 3

Gomer's sons: Ashkenaz, Riphath, Togarmah.

4 Javan's sons: Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittim, the Dananites. 5 From these came the dispersal to the islands of the nations.

These were Japheth's sons, in their respective countries, each with its own language, by clan and nation.

Gen. 10:6 Ham's sons: Cush, Mizraim, Put, Canaan. 7 Cush's sons: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, Sabteca. Raamah's sons: Sheba, Dedan.

Gen. 10:20 These were Ham's sons, by clans and languages, by countries and nations.

Gen. 10:22 Shem's sons: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, Aram. 23 Aram's sons: Uz, Hul, Gether and Mash.

Gen. 10:31 These were Shem's sons, by clans and languages, by countries and nations.

Gen. 10:32 Such were the clans of Noah's descendants, listed by descent and nation. From them, other nations branched out on earth after the flood.

Additional on Priestly materials in Genesis 10-11

The P source continued with a genealogical bridge in Gen 11:10-26 and brief treatment of Terah-Abraham in Gen 11:27*, 32 that was originally part of a Toledot book. The author of P likely adapted that Toledot book with elements such as the links to the Genesis 1 creation narrative in Gen 5:1b-2 (and parts of 5:3), the odd note about Shem fathering Arpachshad two years after the flood (Gen 11:10b), and the note about Terah's settlement in Haran (Gen 11:31). The latter note about Terah's settlement prepares for P's continuation with expanded treatment of Abraham and his descendants across Priestly portions of Genesis 12-50.