

FAQ

FROM THE MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS ARCHIVES (2000-2018)

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MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS
messianicapologetics.net

Frequently Asked Questions

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Abbreviations and Special Terms

The following is a list of abbreviations for reference works and special terms which are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as TWOT for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

- ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament
Ara: Aramaic
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.
BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)
BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.
CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)
CGL: *Cambridge Greek Lexicon* (2021)
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holladay)
CJB: *Complete Jewish Bible* (1998)
CJSB: *Complete Jewish Study Bible* (2016)
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*
EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*
ESV: *English Standard Version* (2001)
Ger: German
GNT: *Greek New Testament*
Grk: Greek
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)
HCSB: *Holman Christian Standard Bible* (2004)
Heb: Hebrew
HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible
IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*
IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*
ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*
Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)
JBK: *New Jerusalem Bible-Koren* (2000)
JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*
KJV: *King James Version*
Lattimore: *The New Testament by Richmond Lattimore* (1996)
LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)
LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)
LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)
LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)
LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
LXX: *Septuagint*
m. Mishnah
MT: *Masoretic Text*
NASB: *New American Standard Bible* (1977)
NASU: *New American Standard Update* (1995)
NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*
NEB: *New English Bible* (1970)
Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*
NETS: *New English Translation of the Septuagint* (2007)
NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*
NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*
NIV: *New International Version* (1984)
NJB: *New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic* (1985)
NJSB: *Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures* (1999)
NKJV: *New King James Version* (1982)
NRSV: *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)
NLT: *New Living Translation* (1996)
NT: *New Testament*
OT: *Old Testament*
REB: *Revised English Bible* (1989)
RSV: *Revised Standard Version* (1952)
t. Tosefta
Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament
Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*
TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*
TLV: *Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life Version* (2014)
TNIV: *Today's New International Version* (2005)
TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*
UBSHNT: *United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition*
v(s). *verse(s)*
Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*
Vul: *Latin Vulgate*
YLT: *Young's Literal Translation* (1862/1898)
WMB: *World Messianic Bible* (2020)

JEDP Documentary Hypothesis

What do I do when I encounter the JEDP Documentary Hypothesis in various books and materials? I am confused about what to do.

The JEDP Documentary Hypothesis has been around since the mid-Nineteenth Century, primarily accredited to the publication of Julius Wellhausen's *Prolegomena to the History of Israel*. As Messianic Biblical Studies improves, being aware of it more and more, and the affects it has had in the interpretation of various parts of the Torah, will doubtlessly come into focus. The 2004 *Jewish Study Bible*¹—which many Messianic people have purchased—is deeply rooted within the critical tradition of the JEDP Documentary Hypothesis. Many do not know what to do with this, reading various introductions which disparage Mosaic authorship or involvement with the composition of the Pentateuch—and indeed approaching a great deal of the Tanach as being Ancient Israel's mythopoetic history, meaning that it is not too reliable. It is not wise for us to ignore something which has been around for over a century-and-a-half.

Our ministry has only made necessary references here or there to the JEDP Documentary Hypothesis in our publications, where it is required to engage with the critical tradition, and apparent discrepancies between one part of the Torah or Tanach and another part.² It is doubtful you will ever run into a Messianic person who adheres to the JEDP Documentary Hypothesis. Conservative examiners have spent a great deal of time cross-examining and refuting the JEDP Documentary Hypothesis. In the event that you ever encounter it, you may want to have some of their resources in your person or congregational library. These may include:

Cassuto, Umberto. *The Documentary Hypothesis and the Composition of the Pentateuch* (Jerusalem: Shalem Press, 2006).

Dillard, Raymond B., and Tremper Longman III. *An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994).

Harrison, R.K. *Introduction to the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969).

Kaiser, Walter C. *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2001).

Kitchen, K.A. *The Bible In Its World: The Bible & Archaeology Today* (Exeter: Paternoster, 1977).

_____. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003).

The critical tradition itself has been seen to move toward more the immediate Left-of-Center in the past few decades. An important resource which details this is:

Childs, Brevard S. *Old Testament Theology in a Canonical Context* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985).

Many of the books and commentaries from the critical tradition, from the mid-Twentieth Century, spent so much time dividing the Pentateuch into J, E, D, and P—and arguing those positions—that little time was spent actually interpreting the text in its final form. While we may not always agree with critical scholars who believe that the Torah was a compilation of these hypothetical sources, it is good to see how more are spending their time and energies on dealing with the Books of Genesis-Deuteronomy as a whole.

The editor has a variety of books and commentaries in his library that while adhering to the JEDP Documentary Hypothesis, still try to interpret the Pentateuchal to Tanach text as a whole, and offer tips about

¹ Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler, eds., *The Jewish Study Bible* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).

² If necessary, consult Richard Elliot Friedman, *The Bible With Sources Revealed* (New York: HarperOne, 2003).

teaching and preaching. And believe it or not, it can be very useful to consider the perspective (among several points of view) of those resources when one is writing a paper or conducting a Bible study. When the Messianic movement can learn to engage with a wider variance of Biblical scholarship, including the critical tradition, it will indeed be a sign of great theological maturity on its part.³

³ For a further review, consult the McKee Moment from 29 October 2019, “What is the JEDP Documentary Hypothesis?”; the Messianic Insider episode from 05 June 2024, “The Closed Doors - Part 2”; and the Messianic Theology Explained installment from 25 June 2024, “Mosaic Authorship of the Pentateuch,” all accessible via <[youtube.com/MessianicApologetics](https://www.youtube.com/MessianicApologetics)>.