

J (cont.)

P (cont.)

Seven days to enter ark (7:4).	One day to enter ark (7:13).
Flood caused by rain (7:12).	Flood caused by great cosmic events (7:11; 8:14).
Flood lasts 101 days (7:12; 8:6-12).	Flood lasts over a year (7:11; 8:14).
Noah offers sacrifice (8:20).	No sacrifice mentioned.

Proponents of the multidocumentary hypothesis say that duplications imply multiple sources, and there are enough duplications in the flood account to enable them to construct two separate (though incomplete) stories. But here the argument, taken to its logical conclusion, would prove too much. There are so many duplications in Gen. 6-8 that even the supposed documents J and P are each filled with duplications. Yet very few would postulate several additional sources behind J and behind P. For, instance, the wickedness of Noah's generation appears seven times: 6:5a,5b,11b,12a,12b,13. God four times announces His regret for creating man and His decision to destroy the race: 6:6a,6b,7,17. Twice He tells Noah to take two of each kind of animal into the ark: 6:19,20 (both these references being in the same "document," P). All this repetition adds to the dramatic effect of the story, and need not imply multiple sources.

While there is much repetition in the Genesis flood account, some parts of the story are only mentioned once. As a result, dividing the account into two supposed documents, leaves each document missing important details. J, for instance, does not include God's directions for building the ark, Noah's actual construction of the ark, and Noah's leaving the ark after the flood had subsided. P leaves out Noah's entering the ark, the beginning of the flood, Noah's sending out the birds, and his