

Would that a famine had risen up to lay low mankind!
Instead of thy bringing on the deluge,
Would that pestilence had risen up to smite down mankind!*

In spite of all the repetition seen here, no one claims to see two accounts woven together to form this flood story.

Elements in the purported J and P documents that seem to contradict each other can with careful study be harmonized into the single narrative, making a multidocumentary explanation unnecessary. God first told Noah, "Take two of each kind of animal," then later, "but seven of each clean kind"; Noah would have had little trouble, since clean kinds were generally domestic animals. When God told Noah in Gen. 7:4 to enter the ark, there were seven days left; but seven days later (verse 10) there was only one day left (Gen. 7:13). The flood was evidently caused by rain plus water coming up from below the earth's surface. The exact length of months and years is uncertain in Genesis, but assuming a thirty day month, the length of the flood can be resolved as follows:

<u>verse</u>	<u>occurence</u>	<u>time in Noah's life</u>	<u>duration</u>	<u>total</u>
7:11	flood begins	600yr, 2mo, 17 da		1 da
7:12,17	rain		40 da	40
7:18-20	waters increase		(110)	
7:24	waters prevail			150

/*The Ancient Near East, ed. James B. Pritchard (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1958), p. 71.