

*Aurelia*  
The Pentateuch Texts

These five texts have been popularly ascribed to Moses; in scholarly circles they are usually said to date (with all the other Old Testament texts) from post-Exilic days. Both views envision composition *at a single time*, by a person known or unknown. Whichever version of that view is right, the texts should be stylistically similar. Stylistic similarity or difference is exactly what the BIRD test is designed to measure.

The BIRD readings for the Pentateuch texts are . . .

	Gen	Exod	Lev	Num	Deut
<i>Words</i>	<i>28k</i>	<i>23k</i>	<i>17k</i>	<i>23k</i>	<i>20k</i>
Gen	~	<b>1·05</b>	<b>1·87</b>	<b>1·15</b>	<b>1·94</b>
Exod	<b>1·05</b>	~	<b>1·03</b>	<b>1·00</b>	<b>1·76</b>
Lev	<b>1·87</b>	<b>1·03</b>	~	<b>1·21</b>	<b>1·51</b>
Num	<b>1·15</b>	<b>1·00</b>	<b>1·21</b>	~	<b>1·59</b>
Deut	<b>1·94</b>	<b>1·76</b>	<b>1·51</b>	<b>1·59</b>	~

. . . and every two-test result is at or above the Extreme level. Not only did the same person not write all five of these texts, *no one person wrote any two of them*.

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The single-author theory was already in difficulties. It required us to assume that the writer of the texts had gratuitously included in them the many inconsistencies and contradictions which have so troubled modern readers. Why create the problems which Wellhausen and others labored so mightily to explain away?