

THE PENTATEUCH—Torah (instruction)—The Law, the 5 Volume Book, 5/5s of Law

Genesis to Deuteronomy, from 'In the Beginning' to almost in the Promised Land

Central Theme: from the beginning, He pointed us, His crowning creation, to Jesus.

The Pentateuch is, in many ways, the _____ of both the Old and New Testaments.

Moses was repeatedly told by God to write (prior to, and up to, 1400 BC)

- 1) Historical _____. (Exodus 17, Numbers 33)
- 2) God's _____ for man. (Exodus 24, 34)
- 3) And, finally, he was told to write _____, believe it or not! (Deut. 31)

How could Moses do all this? God uniquely prepared him while in _____, in Egypt.

These books paint the picture for us of God the Creator, Deliverer, the Provider, Healer...

See 2nd Peter 3:3-8--Sound like the world we live in?

GENESIS: MAJOR EVENTS—Creation, 8 acts in 6 days; Fall of Man (original sin); Population of Planet begins; the Great Flood; Re-population of earth from 8 people; Tower of Babel, scattering of the cultures; Abram (Abraham) called by God as God prepares genetic line for Messiah; Jacob/Israel fathers the tribes of God's nation; Joseph in Egypt, followed by brothers; Judah singled out for blessing (Ch 49)...hmm.....

Central Theme: From the beginning, God had intersection with human beings in mind, disrupted by sin, but resumed through the promise of Jesus Christ. Genesis lays out a blueprint for humanity.

EXODUS: The Mosaic era--Fathers of tribes in Egypt die, offspring brought into 430 years of bondage. A clan of 70 had grown into a people of millions, without a country or their freedom. MAJOR EVENTS—Israelites brought into bondage, but multiplied all the more. Moses appears (ch2), lives in Pharaoh's house, escapes to Midian, called to return at burning bush; Moses returns and challenges Pharaoh to release Israelites, calls down plagues, institutes Passover, leads them out of Egypt after last plague with the Red Sea crossing, 40 Years in Wilderness, during which God schools Israelites in trusting Him as their Leader, Provider, Healer and Deliverer. The 10 Commandments are given to them through Moses (ch 20). God gives instructions for the Tabernacle of Meeting where He dwelled, and institutes the priesthood with Aaron and sons as priests. Ends with the Glory of God filling the Tabernacle with His presence, and (Leviticus 1) He speaks to Moses out of it—flows right into Leviticus ch 1. Central theme: We meet God as our Deliverer, but He becomes our Provider, our Healer, etc...He knows we can't keep His laws appropriately, but promises His presence to go with us as His people.

LEVITICUS: (circa 1445 BC) Hebrew title (Vayikra..'and He called'). Often, Hebrew OT book names are the 1st word or phrase from the original texts. 'Leviticus' from Greek meaning 'of the Levites'....

Main thought: Yes, God is Holy, we are not, but He bridges that gap for us with sacrifices. He wants to make things right, and will, once and for all, provide Himself as sacrifice once for all. Most of book covers God's commandments involving worship, sacrifices and how offerings were to be conducted, each of them symbolizing an aspect of God and His holiness.....

IMPORTANT POINT: Holiness of God is linked to everyday living, not meaningless ritual. AS A MATTER OF FACT (ACCD TO JACK HAYFORD), LEVITICUS WAS THE FIRST BOOK TAUGHT TO HEBREW CHILDREN IN THEIR RELIGIOUS TRAINING BECAUSE, BOTTOM LINE, GOD IS HOLY. This took precedence over their teaching of Creation and the Exodus.

Another important fact: Leviticus, for the first time, tells us how we realize, repent and be restored. Chapter 5 gives the repentance cycle, still valid today: Preparation for a personal Savior.

- 1) We sin
- 2) We realize it, become guilty 'in our hearts'
- 3) We confess it (agree with God about it)
- 4) We offer the appropriate sacrifice (guilt offering in chapter 5)

5) Atonement for sin is achieved, fellowship is restored.

NUMBERS: Credited to Moses, shortly before his death, or at least compiled soon before. Hebrew name for this book was 'in the wilderness'.

Numbers Covers 40 years, from just after the Exodus onward to near Moses' death.

THE ISRAELITES GET ORGANIZED: God calls for a census ('Numbers', get it?) in order to form an invasion army of the Promised Land.

Theme: You may know God as Deliverer (Exodus), but He will be provider in your wilderness.

2 Sections: Chapters 1-10, instructions for the present; Chapters 10-36-preparation for your future

Important stories: 1) Sending out of spies, with only Joshua and Caleb giving a faith report

2) God anoints leaders to lead, and the anointing transfers to new leaders. The prophetic is stirred, and God expresses His desire that all would one day receive the Holy Spirit. Fulfilled in NT, Acts 2.

Moral of the story: God not only calls us, He equips, empowers, then we do the impossible thru Him

DEUTERONOMY: (1400 BC) This book covers only a 2 month span—the last 5 weeks of his life, and another month of mourning for him. Someone else (Joshua?) recorded his death and burial obviously. Different tone, voice, than the 1st four books. Moses uses 'I' repeatedly, in the first person, rather than speaking from the mouth of God, he gives last minute instructions as they prepare to enter the Promised Land without him. He is 120, and about to die, and everyone knows it.

There is a **SENSE OF URGENCY** in Moses' tone—summed up in 30:19— **CHOOSE LIFE!**

Reason: There would be no more daily miracles, no clouds and pillars, but they were going to settle into real life, and had to live it, largely unsupervised, on a daily basis.

Key words: Obedience/Blessing vs Disobedience/Cursing. Chapter 28 is the main focus here.

Central Theme: How to walk in and maintain Blessing, and avoid Cursing, and secure a future for yourself and your descendants. It is a very applicable 'today' theme.

OBEDIENCE/LOYALTY/FAITHFULNESS

Jesus often quoted Deuteronomy: When asked about the greatest commandment, He quoted Deuteronomy.

When tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 4 times no less.

MOSES' LIFE RECAPPED: The first person to prophesy the coming of the Messiah, a prophet like Moses himself. *He is the only person Jesus ever compared himself to (John 5:46, 47) "if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for He wrote about me, but if you don't believe him, how will you believe Me?"* As the great deliverer and prophet, Moses painted a picture for generations to come of the Great Deliverer and Prophet, the once-for-all sacrifice, the coming Priest-King

He prophesied; Coming of Messiah (18:15); Israel's dispersion among the nations, their repentance, restoration, Israel's eventual restoration as a nation (1948) and prosperity (all in chapter 30)
He, like all good leaders, was moved aside for the next big thing—Joshua.