

# Pentateuch

April 10, 2013 – Intro Lecture  
Lakeside Institute of Theology  
Ross Arnold, Spring 2013

# Policies and Requirements

1. Classes are free, but all students seeking a certificate or degree must purchase books (paper, not electronic), which will be made available by the Institute.
2. Students in certificate or degree tracks may miss no more than one class per course, without arrangements made in advance with the teacher to make up missed work (at the discretion of the teacher).
3. Students in certificate or degree tracks will be required to take a pass/fail final exam in each course, based on study guidelines provided by the teacher.
4. Students in certificate or degree tracks must make a passing grade (based on "pass/fail") in each course in order to receive credit towards a certificate or degree.
5. Candidates for degrees (Master of Theology and Master of Theology & Ministry) must be approved by the Institute Director before final admission into a degree program.

# Pentateuch (OT3)

1. Introduction to the Pentateuch
2. Genesis 1-11; The Prehistoric Prologue
3. Genesis 12-50; The Patriarchs
4. Exodus 1-18; God's Deliverance
5. Exodus 19-40' The Covenant at Sinai
6. Leviticus
7. Numbers
8. Deuteronomy; Final Exam

# On what do we base our faith?

- Our beliefs are based on God's own revelation to us, as given in four ways (in descending order of authority):
  1. The revelation of God in Scripture.
  2. The revelation of God to His Church, down through history.
  3. The revelation of God in the world. ("General Revelation")
  4. The revelation of God to individual people.



# Structure & Form of the Old Testament

Traditional Protestant Structure:

– 39 Books in Four Sections:

- **The Law (5)** – “Torah” in Hebrew; “Pentateuch” or “Five Books”
- **History (12)** – Joshua thru Esther.
- **Wisdom (5)** – Job thru Song of Songs.
- **Prophecy (17)** – Isaiah thru Malachi, (sometimes broken up into *Major Prophets*: Isaiah thru Daniel, and *Minor Prophets*: Hosea thru Malachi)

# Structure & Form of the Old Testament

Traditional Jewish Structure:

– 24 Books in Three Sections:

- **The Law (5)** – “Torah” in Hebrew;
  - **Prophets (8)** – “Nevi'im” in Hebrew
  - **Writings (11)** – “Ketuvim” in Hebrew.
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- Together these sections form the acronymn TaNaKh, or Hebrew Bible. (also known as “*Miqra*” or “that which is read”)

# Why Study the Old Testament?

1. It is the “Scriptures” referred to by Jesus and the Apostles.
2. The Old Testament is part of God’s inspired revelation to us.
3. The Old Testament is foundational to our understanding.
4. The Old Testament is practical.
5. The Old Testament points to Jesus Christ.

# The First Five Books of the Old Testament

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Torah      | Hebrew: “Law,” or<br>“Instruction”          |
| Pentateuch | Greek: “Five Books,”<br>or “Five-Part Book” |

# The Pentateuch – “Five Books” or “The Five-Fifths of Moses”

- Genesis – *bereshith*, (“In the beginning”); from Greek *Geneseos*, “History of origins”
- Exodus – *we’elleh shemoth*, (“These are the names of”); from Greek *Exodos*, “Exit”
- Leviticus – *wayyiqra*, (“And the Lord called”);  
from Greek *Leuitikos* for “Relating to the Levites”
- Numbers – *bemidbar*, (“In the dessert”); from Greek *Arithmoi* referring to census lists, chapters 1 & 26
- Deuteronomy – *‘elleh haddebarim*, (“These are the words”); from Greek *Deuteronomion* or “2<sup>nd</sup> Repetition of the Law”

**Genesis**

From creation, thru the origins of God's people to Egypt

**Exodus**

Relates God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt and establishing His covenant/Law

**Leviticus**

Sets forth the Laws of worship

**Numbers**

Relates the wilderness wanderings

**Deuteronomy**

Gives the Law to a new generation with special emphasis to those entering the land

# Importance of the Pentateuch

- It tells us where we (and the entire universe) came from.
- It tells us what is wrong with us.
- It reveals to us the nature of God – Creator, Redeemer, Righteous, Loving, Forgiving...
- It gives us our history, through the history of God's call and relationship with His chosen people.
- It sets the stage for all that is to come – especially in Jesus and the New Testament.

# Authorship & Dating

- Why authorship & dating of Pentateuch is important.
- The testimony to Mosaic authorship c.1450-1400 BC.
  - In the Pentateuch itself:
    - Exodus 17:14, 24:4, 34:27; Numbers 33:1-2; Deuteronomy 4:44, 28:58, 31:9-13, 32:44-47; etc.
  - In other Old Testament books:
    - Joshua 1:7-8, 8:31, 22:5, 23:6; 1 Kings 2:3, 10:31; 2 Kings 14:6, 21:8, 23:25; Daniel 9:11-13; plus MANY more and MANY direct quotes from the Pentateuch.
  - In the New Testament:
    - Matt. 22:24, 31; Mark 12:19, 26; Luke 19:29, 20:28, 37, John 5:45-47; Acts 3:22, 13:13, 15:21, 28:23; Romans 10:5-8, 19; 1 Cor. 9:9; Revelation 15:3.
  - Unanimous witness in Jewish/Christian traditions.

# Documentary Hypothesis

- Julius Wellhausen (1899) and others, mostly Germans, 18<sup>th</sup> through late 19<sup>th</sup> century, developed the theory that the Pentateuch was the product of at least FOUR (and perhaps as many as ten or more) different writers, NONE of whom were Moses, and all of whom came much later.
  - “J” – Yahwist source, c. 950 BC, Kingdom of Judah.
  - “E” – Elohist source, c. 850 BC, Kingdom of Israel.
  - “D” – Deuteronomist source, c. 600 BC, Jerusalem.
  - “P” – Priestly source, c. 500 BC, Jewish priests in exile in Babylon.

# Prejudices Behind the Documentary Hypothesis

1. “Moses could not have written the Pentateuch because writing was developed much later and therefore Moses could not write.”

- Proven wrong: we now have examples of writing far earlier, and Semitic writing in Egypt from as early as at least 1800 BC—long before Moses in 1400 BC.

2. “The idea of the Torah (or any part of the Bible) being inspired and/or protected by God as His revelation must be rejected outright, as does any suggestion of miraculous events.”

- This would undermine all Judaism and Christianity, as both faiths are built on the belief in God’s revelation in Scripture.

# Prejudices Behind the Documentary Hypothesis

3. “Differences in the text of the Pentateuch – different names for God, parallel stories, differences in style – require multiple authors.”
  - Subsequent scholarship into Semitic writing styles has shown these variables to be quite normal, and belief in Moses as the primary writer of the Pentateuch does not mean NO other sources were used by Moses, nor does it mean minor additions could not have been added later by Joshua or others (such as the reference to Moses’ death).

# Conclusions Regarding Mosaic Authorship

1. The critical arguments against Mosaic authorship are insufficient to set aside the manifold testimony of both Old and New Testaments, the continuous consensus of both Jewish and Christian people for over 3000 years, and the internal consistencies of the text itself.
2. The Mosaic authenticity of the Pentateuch does not mean Moses could not have drawn on previous sources (as in the stories of Genesis), nor does it mean he might not have entrusted some of the writing to others under his direction, or that minor additions by other inspired writers (such as Joshua or Ezra) might not have been added later to complete the inspired narrative.

# The Book of Genesis

- Author: Moses
- Date: c. 1450 BC - 1400 BC
- Theme: Beginnings – of the universe, the human race, and the Jewish people.
- Purpose: To show that the Creator God is sovereign and loves His creation.
- Outline:
  1. Prehistoric Prologue: (chs. 1-11)  
Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel
  2. The Hebrew People (11-50)
    - \* Father Abraham (11-25)
    - \* Isaac and Jacob (25-36)
    - \* Joseph (37-50)



**HITTITES**

FERTILE CRESCENT

Tarsus●

Mt. Ararat▲

**ARMENIA**

Caspian Sea

**CYPRUS**

Paphos●  
Mediterranean Sea  
(Great Sea)

**HURRIANS**

●Haran

**ASSYRIA**

●Nineveh  
●Nimrud

MESOPOTAMIA

Tigris River

●Ugarit

●Hamath

●Damascus

●Mari

●Ecbatana

**CANAAN**

**BABYLONIA**

Jericho●  
Jerusalem●

●Amman

●Gaza

●Bethlehem

●Babylon  
Tower of Babel?

●Nippur

**MEDIA**

**SUMER**

**ELAM**

●On

Noph  
(Memphis)

●Ezion-geber

Garden of Eden?

●Susa

●Persepolis

**PERSIA**

**EGYPT**

●Thebes

Persian Gulf  
(Arabian Gulf)

Red  
Sea

**ARABIAN  
DESERT**



# The Book of Exodus

Author: Moses

Date: circa 1446 BC - 1440 BC

Theme: God's deliverance of His Chosen people.

Key Word: Redemption

Purpose: To show God's faithfulness to His covenant & give directions for living.

Outline: 1. God's Redemption

Moses (chs. 1-7)

The Plagues (7-13)

The Exodus from Egypt (14-18)

2. God's Covenant

The Law (19-24)

Tabernacle & Worship (25-40)

# The Book of Leviticus

Author: Moses

Date: c. 1445 BC-1400 BC

Theme: Explanations of Law & Sacrifice.

Key Word: Holiness

Purpose: To instruct Israel on how to be holy & to be a blessing to others.

Outline:

- Sacrifice (chs. 1-7)
- Priesthood (8-10)
- Clean and unclean (11-15)
- Day of Atonement (16)
- Laws for daily life (17-27)

# The Book of Numbers

Author: Moses

Date: c. 1445 BC-1400 BC

Theme: Census and History

Key Word: Wanderings

Purpose: Show what can happen when God's people rebel against Him.

Outline: Census (chs. 1-9)  
Sinai to Canaan (10-12)  
Spies and Rebellion (13-19)  
At Moab (20-36)

# The Book of Deuteronomy

Author: Moses

Date: c. 1401<sub>BC</sub>-1400<sub>BC</sub>

Theme: Three Sermons by Moses

Key Word: Covenant

Purpose: To remind the people of what God expects from them.

Outline: Sermon 1: Journey reviewed (1-4)  
Sermon 2: Laws reviewed (5-28)  
Sermon 3: Covenant (29-30)  
Final Farewells (31-34)



