

# **The Pentateuch: A Survey**

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September 2023**



# Just to start us off

- **What are the first five books of the Bible about?**
- **Who are the two main characters?**
- **Have you ever felt a “call” from God?**

# What is the Pentateuch?

- **The Torah (Hebrew – The Law, Deut. 31:9)**
- **The Pentateuch (Greek – Five scrolls)**
- **The Books of Moses**
- **The first five books in the Bible**

# What makes up the Pentateuch

- **Genesis: World History and Israel**
- **Exodus: Leave Egypt, Receive Law, Apostasy, Grace**
- **Leviticus: Cultic matters – Sacrifice, Atonement, Purity**
- **Numbers: Wanderings, Census**
- **Deuteronomy: Decalogue (2nd), Covenant (If...)**

# Themes in the Pentateuch

- **Genesis 1 and 2**
  - Many gods at the time (13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century BC)
  - Moses says that Elohim is the true God!
  - **Elohim “God of gods” or “The Power over the powers.”**
- **Suzerain-Vassal Relationships**
  - “If I do this, you will do that.”
  - I give you land and protection
  - You promise me your loyalty

# Pentateuch Themes (cont.)

- **Preamble to the Decalogue**
  - “I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”
  - Benevolent King; what He has **already** done
- **What is the King asking for in response?**
  - “No other gods before me”
  - “Thou shalt not...”
  - Vassal is to pledge loyalty and peace in Kingdom

# Pentateuch Themes (cont.)

- **Creation**
  - I made you and I made a garden
  - You work and **guard** the garden (Ge. 2:15)

# Pentateuch Themes (cont.)

- **The “alien”, the “stranger”, or the “other”**
  - Mentioned over 50 times
  - Always in respect of ‘how to treat’ them
    - Because you too; Ephesians 2:11-12
  - **Who is the “other” in your life?**



# Pentateuch Themes (cont.)

- **The Pentateuch ends (Dt 34):**
  - Moses, Israel's leader, is dead
  - Israel looks across the Jordan at Promised Land
  - A new guy, Joshua, takes over
  - **How would you feel?**

# Genesis

- **Chapter 1 and Chapter 2**
  - Two Creation stories side-by-side
  - One author or two?
    - Elohim vs Yahweh Elohim - Why?
    - Details of Day 6?
  - God's grace – animal skins for covering (3:21)
  - God's Compassion – no more massive floods (9:11)

# God Calling!

## Genesis/Exodus + Isaiah

- **Calling Method One**
  - Ge 12:1 “LORD said to Abram...” (Abraham)
  - Ex 3:10 “Come, I will send you...” (Moses)
  - Specific calls to specific people
- **Calling Method Two**
  - Isaiah 6:8 “Whom shall I send and who will go for us?”
  - Isaiah was not specifically chosen
  - Isaiah answered a general call

# God Calling!

## Genesis/Exodus + Isaiah

**Do you hear Yahweh calling?**

# Exodus

- **Miracles (Chaps. 1-15)**
  - Plagues
  - Crossing Red Sea
  - Protection (from Egypt)

# Exodus

- **Apostasy, Law, Grace (Chaps. 15-34)**
  - Complaining/Ungratefulness (mana, quail, water)
  - Law given (Chaps. 20-31)
  - Apostasy and Grace (Chaps. 31-34)
- **Tabernacle and Priests (Chaps. 35-40)**

# Leviticus and Numbers

- **Leviticus**
  - Cultic Practices/Priesthood
  - No forgiveness of sins without blood
- **Numbers**
  - History
  - Preparation for entry

# Leviticus and Numbers

- **IF you obey - God smiles!**
  - Leviticus 26:9, 12
  - Numbers 6:24-26
- **IF you do not obey - God frowns!**
  - Leviticus 26:17



# Deuteronomy

- **Retelling the story**
  - Decalogue given again (why?) 5:6-21
  - Shema or “Listen!” 6:4-5
  - Chosen People 7:6-11
    - Grace!

# Deuteronomy

- **Retelling the story**
  - **A new prophet is promised 18:15, 34:10**
  - Across the Jordan from the Promised Land  
34:1-9

# Decalogue - Lutheran

- **5:7 No other gods**
- **5:11 My name not in vain**
- **5:12 Keep My Sabbath**
- **5:16 Honor Ma and Pa**
- **5:17 No murder**
- **5:18 No adultery**
- **5:19 No stealing**
- **5:20 No false stories**
- **5:21 No coveting neighbor's home**
- **5:21 No coveting other stuff**

# . Decalogue - Protestant/Anglican

- 5:7 No other gods
- 5:8 No images of Me
- 5:11 My name not in vain
- 5:12 Keep My Sabbath
- 5:16 Honor Ma and Pa
- 5:17 No murder
- 5:18 No adultery
- 5:19 No stealing
- 5:20 No false stories
- 5:21 No coveting

# Questions?