

Pentateuch (Genesis – Deuteronomy)

Books in section:

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

Timeline of writing: 1440BC-1400BC +/- 30 years

Timeline of events: Beginning of time to the just before entering promised land. Creation to 1400BC +/- 3 years.

Theological significance:

The Pentateuch is not simply a historical account. These books are a special revelation from God, through their author Moses, in order to reveal God's plan, motives, and nature.

Many of God's attributes are revealed within the first few chapters of Genesis. They are then expounded upon and exemplified throughout the rest of Scripture.

God's plan revealed through each book:

- Genesis
 - Purposeful creation, limitations set, righteous and gracious judgment enforced, a nation chosen, providence realized.
- Exodus
 - Revelation of God's existence, power, authority, love, and provision.
- Leviticus
 - Holiness of God, necessity for man to be holy, instructions on holiness and gracious means of sanctification.
- Numbers
 - God prepares his people for entrance into His promised land. Trails reveal who are truly for God, not just ancestrally deserving of inheritance.
- Deuteronomy
 - God's gracious address to the new generation who will soon enter and conquer the land promised.

How to Interpret:

- Utilize basic interpretive principles (OICA)
 - Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, Application
- Use these books to develop or sharpen your view of God, man, sin, salvation, etc.
 - When reading the narratives, allow the text to answer "why would God..." type questions.
 - When reading Leviticus, recognize the purpose God had in giving the Law. Be Holy because I am Holy (Lev 11:44-45)

- When reading Deuteronomy, recognize the historical context. Moses is delivering all God instructed to this new generation of Israelites, just prior to them entering into God's promised land.

Analyze and apply a passage:

- Numbers 21:4-9
 - What happened
 - Based on the text, why did God choose to take the actions He did in verses 6?
 - Hint, what is the historical context of this book?
 - What did the people recognize and choose to do in verse 7?
 - How does God respond in verse 8 and 9?
 - What do you observe or learn about man?
 - What do you observe or learn about God?
 - How is this relevant to man today?
 - Is this historical account in any direct way connected to the Gospel?
 - How can you use this story to share the Gospel?