

The Torah

Brief Review:

- ❑ The Old Testament is composed of 39 books -
 1. The Torah (Pentateuch - 5 books) - the Law of Moses
 - Genesis
 - Exodus
 - Leviticus
 - Numbers
 - Deuteronomy
 2. The Historical Books (12)
 - Joshua
 - Judges
 - Ruth
 - I and II Samuel
 - I and II Kings
 - I and II Chronicles
 - Ezra
 - Nehemiah
 - Esther
 3. The Poetical books (5)
 - Job
 - Psalms
 - Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Solomon
 4. Major Prophets (5)
 - Isaiah
 - Jeremiah
 - Lamentations
 - Ezekiel
 - Daniel

5. Minor Prophets (12)

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

The Torah The

1. THE TORAH is the key text in Judaism.
2. These books were written by Moses.
3. THE TORAH is also known as “The Law of Moses” or “Pentateuch” (which means 5 books).
4. THE TORAH gives the history of the world from its creation through the migration of the Jews to Egypt (under Joseph).
5. WHEN the Torah was revealed to Moses is a matter of debate. Some hold that all five books were given to Moses during his communion with God on Mount Sinai in 1280 BC. Others believe the books were given to Moses by God throughout his life. Still others believe that the majority of the five books were told to Moses by God throughout his life but other passages - such as those describing Moses’ death - were later written by Joshua or some other prophet.

GENESIS GENESI S

1. The book of Genesis states many things for the first time:
Creation / Man / Woman / Sin / Sabbath / Marriage / Family / Labor / Civilization / Culture / Murder / Sacrifice / Races / Languages / Redemption / Cities
2. The book of Genesis tells us the fascinating stories of some of earth’s greatest

characters: Adam / Noah / Nimrod / Abraham / Sarah / Isaac / Rebekah / Jacob / Rachel / Joseph

3. WHEN WAS CREATION?

A. I personally believe in a pre-creation that was destroyed; hence, Genesis 1:1,2
Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. [2] And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

A better rendering of verse 2 from the original Hebrew would read: “And the earth BECAME without form....”

Why? God put down Satan’s (Lucifer’s) rebellion in Heaven and cast out the sinning angels (at least 50 million of them) to earth. This is what caused the formless void and darkness on earth, from which the Holy Spirit moved and God created again.

B. WHEN? I like J. Vernon McGee’s explanation:

“The first 11 chapters cover a minimum time span of 2,000 years – actually two thousand years PLUS. I feel it is safe to say that they may cover several hundred thousand years. I believe this first section of Genesis can cover any time in the past that you may need to fit into your particular theory and the chances are that you would come short of it even then.”

I personally believe the planet is hundreds of millions of years old at least.

C. The time span in Genesis from Abraham to the birth of Jesus was about 2,000 years.

4. God does not tell us everything we would like to know about creation. For example, in Genesis 1:16, He takes but five words to tell of the creation of constellations:
“...he made the stars also.” Yet He takes 12 CHAPTERS to tell the story of Joseph. The Bible is primarily a book about redemption. That is the issue closest to the heart of God.

EXODUS

EXODUS

1. Exodus means “exit” or “the way out.” It is the story of the Israelites deliverance from slavery in Egypt. The lead character is MOSES.
2. Exodus continues the story which was begun in Genesis although there is a lapse between the 2 books of almost 4 centuries.

Genesis 15:13 says that the seed of Abraham would spend 400 years in Egypt. Exodus 12:40 says it was 430 years. And Galatians 3:16-17 confirms it.

Genesis 15:13

And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

Exodus 12:40

Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.

Galatians 3:16-17

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. [17] And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

3. Genesis 46:27 tells us that 70 souls of Jacob entered Egypt.

Genesis 46:27

And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten.

It is conservatively estimated that at least 2,100,000 Jews left Egypt at the time of the Exodus.

We believe that Joseph entered Egypt at the Hyksos Dynasty (or Shepherd Kings) who were not Egyptian but Semitic conquerors probably from Canaan. They treated Joseph’s family with great respect even while most of Egypt hated the Pharaoh line. Finally the Hyksos line was driven from Egypt by a native Egyptian Dynasty which was understandably hostile to foreigners. In this line was the Pharaoh of the oppression and the one “who knew not Joseph.”

4. It is in the Book of Exodus that we get the TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS.

Exodus 25:1-9

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, [2] Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. [3] And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, [4] And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, [5] And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, [6] Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense, [7] Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate. [8] And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. [9] According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

VIDEO

LEVITICUS

1. In the Book of Leviticus, the children of Israel were marking time at Mount Sinai. The book opens and closes at the same geographical spot - Mount Sinai, where God gave the Law. EXODUS closed with the construction of the Tabernacle....and LEVITICUS continues by giving the order and rules of worship in the Tabernacle.

2. Leviticus is the book of Worship. Sacrifice, ceremony, ritual, liturgy, instructions, washings, convocations, holy days, observances, conditions and warnings crowd this book. But there are great spiritual truths that can be derived from these writings.

3. They keynote to Leviticus is "Holiness unto the Lord."

The word "holiness" occurs 87 times in this book.

Leviticus 20:26

And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.

4. Leviticus teaches that the way to God is by sacrifice. The word ATONEMENT occurs 45 times. Atonement means "to cover up." The blood of bulls and goats did not actually take away sin....it covered over sin until Christ came to take it all away.

Romans 3:25

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

5. A brief synopsis of the book is helpful:

A. The five offerings which open this book are clear cameos of Christ. They depict His person in depth and His death in detail. Chapters 1-7.

B. The consecration of the priests reveals how shallow and inadequate is our thinking of Christian consecration. Chapters 8-10

C. The DIET God provided for His people was sanitary and therapeutic. Chapter 11

D. Attention is given to motherhood Chapter 12

E. Prominence is given to leprosy and its treatment. Leprosy is a “type” of sin in the Bible. Chs. 13-15

F. The Great Day of Atonement is a full-length portrait of the sacrifice of Christ. Ch . 16

G. In Chapter 17 we read of the importance of the burnt altar in the tabernacle, which highlights the essential characteristic of the Cross.

H. The emphasis in this book of instruction concerning seemingly minute details in the daily lives of God’s people reveals how God intends the human family to be involved with Him. Chs 18-22

I. The list of feasts furnishes a prophetic program of God’s agenda for all time in chapter 23.

J. The laws governing the land of Palestine give us insight into its strange past.

In Genesis we see man ruined.

In Exodus we see man redeemed.

In Leviticus we see man worshiping God.

N U M B E R S

NUMBERS

1. The Book of Numbers (meaning arithmetic) gets its name from the census in chapters 1 and 26.
2. Numbers takes up the story where Exodus ends.

REVIEW:

In Genesis, we have the creation and fall of man and many beginnings. We have the beginning of Israel - not a nation yet, but a growing family that migrates to Egypt to escape extinction by famine.

In Exodus, we find the family becoming a nation in Egypt. We see them in slavery then God delivers them by the hand of Moses and brings them as far as Mount Sinai.

In Leviticus, we see the Israelites marking time at Mount Sinai while God gives them the Law.

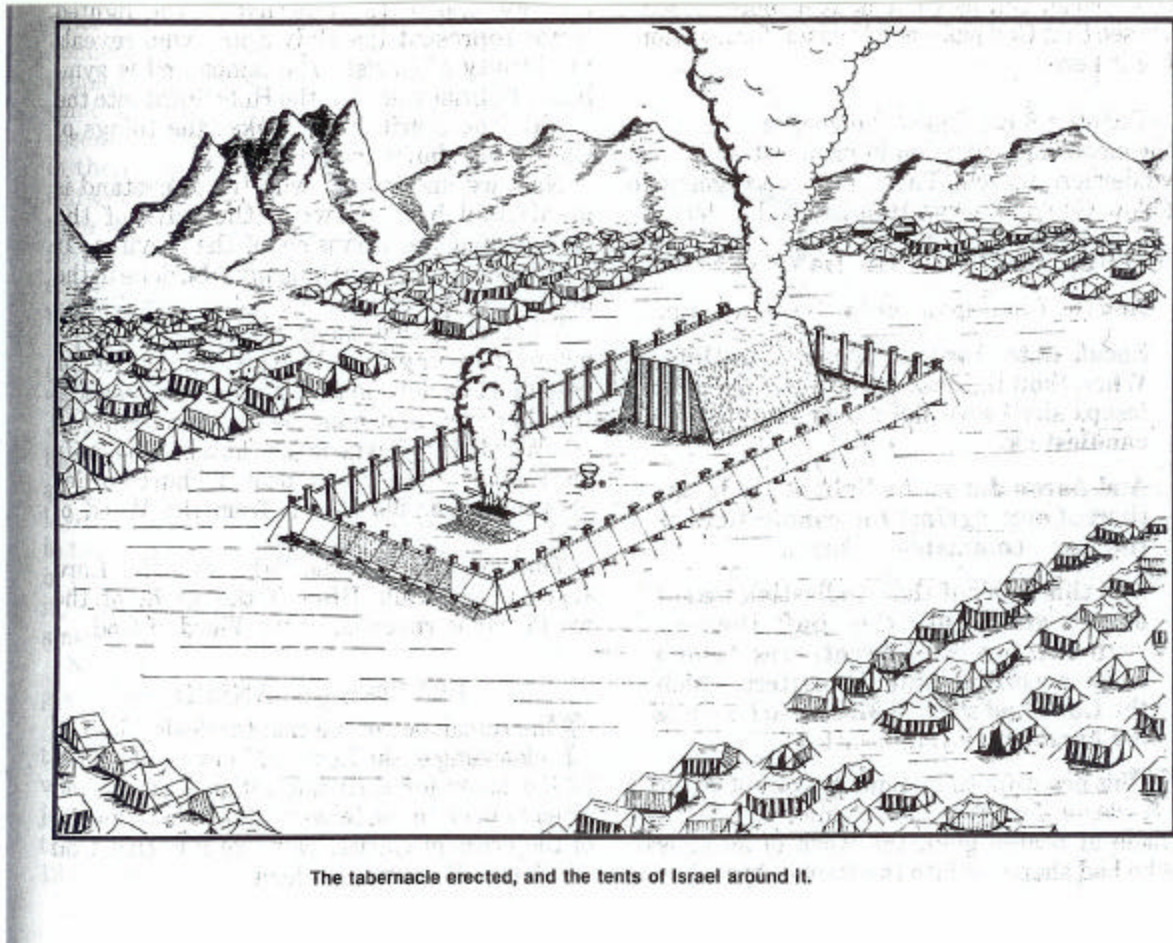
In Numbers, we see the children of Israel depart from Mount Sinai and march to Kadesh-barnea. Here they lose faith and victory and an entire generation dies in the wilderness.

3. Leviticus shows us clearly how futile our lives become without faith. The distance from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-barnea (in north Sinai) is only 150-200 miles. The Israelites covered that jaunt in only 11 days. They could have been in the Promised Land in a mere 40 days easily! Yet it required 40 years or so and resulted in the deaths of all those who left Egypt except Joshua and Caleb. Another new generation entered the Promised Land. WHY?

UNBELIEF

4. You will notice from the drawing on page 8 how orderly the people traveled. This was not a mob going through the wilderness helter-skelter. God has always been a God of order.

In May of last year, we followed the Children of Israel on our tour from Sinai through the land of the Amalekites and Hittites and Moabites, etc. We were impressed again at the ingenuity and leadership of Joshua and Moses in bringing the several millions of Jews through this perilous journey.



5. In Numbers we read of the deaths of Miriam and Aaron, Moses' sister and brother. Ch. 20

We study the life of a strange prophet named Balaam who was spoken to by a donkey in chapters 22-25.

We read of the spies sent by Moses into the Promised Land, most of whom brought back a frightened and negative report - except for Caleb and Joshua...in chapters 13 and 14.

We read the marvelous story of the brazen serpent in chapter 21.

We study the cities of refuge in chapter 35.

DEUTERONOMY

1. The Greek word "deutero" means two or second. And "nomion" means law. So the title Deuteronomy means SECOND LAW.

It is primarily God's reminding of His statutes and how He expects them to be maintained.

2. The theme of Deuteronomy is “Love and Obey.” The word “love” appears 22 times.
3. Moses wrote the book. **Psalm 103:7**
He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.
4. The section dealing with the death of Moses (34:5-12) was probably written by Joshua and really belongs to the Book of Joshua.
5. When the Children of Israel reached the border of the Promised Land, it was a new generation that had not lived through the miracles of the Egyptian deliverance. The adults of the generation which had left Egypt were dead, and their bones were bleaching beneath the desert skies because of their UNBELIEF and DISOBEDIENCE.
The new generation needed to have the Law interpreted for them.
6. Moses gives to this new generation 8 orations in which he
 - * Reviews the desert experiences
 - * re-emphasizes certain features of the Law
 - * reveals the future course that God made with him relative to the Land of Promise.
7. A requiem to Moses concludes the Book of Deuteronomy.

Deut. 34:1-8

And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the Lord shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, [2] And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea, [3] And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar. [4] And the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I swore unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

[5] So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. [6] And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Beth-peor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

[7] And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

[8] And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

By Nebo's lonely mountain,
On this side Jordan's wave,
In a vale in the land of Moab,
There lies a lonely grave.

And no man knows that sepulcher
And no man saw it e'er,
For the angels of God upturned the sod,
And laid the dead man there.

– Cecil Frances Alexander

In our next session in two weeks, we see the Children of Israel entering into the Promised Canaan Land, across the Jordan, led by Joshua. This is the start of the historical books.