

Lesson 12 The Five Books of The Law Review

A review of the Pentateuch, also called the Five Books of the Law, the Law of Moses, the Books of Moses, and the Torah.

For the Scripture reading this week, reread random selections from the five books of the Law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

Use your imagination. For an imaginative exercise, pretend that you have had no contact with the Living God or with His religion of faith. The basis for our religion is laid in these books, like the roots of a tree, though the higher mysteries of His Love and Sacrifice for our salvation, and the Holy Trinity, which are the flowering of the full growth of that tree are merely there in promise. Under the following headings write down these basic beliefs and understandings. Be prepared to discuss these.

About the Living God:

example: His name is Yahweh (I AM WHO AM)
He calls individuals
He is personal, not just “power” or “creativity”
He has expectations of those He calls
He is Holy, meaning completely Other, Whole
He guides
He provides

About What He Asks of His People:

example: To heed Him
To exercise the freedom He gives to chose Him
To be fruitful, to multiply
To subdue the earth - make it yield its secrets -
To live in covenant with Yahweh

About personal and community worship:

To keep certain holy days for Remembrance
To have an altar for sacrifice
To give thanksgiving and do penance
To have a tabernacle for His presence to abide

Read antiphonally the 136th Psalm and pray.

This is a psalm sung at the end of the Passover meal, and the song sung by Jesus and His disciples before they left the upper room prior to Jesus’ agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and His arrest. It emphasizes *hesed*, the steadfast love of Yahweh for His people, and their praise of Him for their deliverance, provision and protection.

Our faith is rooted in reality. One of the wonderful things about our faith is that it originated in a physical setting, a rich and varied topography which actually stimulated history; a land with fruitful land, barren deserts, singular mountains, and unique seas. Some have called the land itself the Fifth Gospel. We learn by just experiencing the places. There events happened to people, real people in real life situations which we can easily imagine; things common to people everywhere - slavery, war, deliverance, journeys, hunger and thirst, fear and grumbling, unhappiness and happiness. In such human circumstances God, the eternal God, revealed Himself. We do not learn about God by getting out a theology or a philosophy book. Nor do we have fantastic, other-world imagery, or magical inventions to contemplate in learning our faith. We have real places, real people, real experiences - in other words, true-to-life-stories. In this way the people came in contact with the God of the universe. He took their experiences and lifted them up, filling them with meaning. In somewhat the same way we can look at our own lives and know that it is in the everyday working out that God is at work teaching us, lifting our modest endeavors to be transformed meaningfully into advances for the Kingdom of God. In divine revelation of the Old Testament things happened and looking back on them, God’s people were guided by their prophets to see the very hand of God. It is a wonder! There are some of these stories that we may still say, “What do they mean?” We don’t come to the end of their meaning in a lifetime of contemplation. This does not mean that true religion is simply impenetrable mystery to our intellect, or that revealed truth is not amply understandable. There is much that is fixed and clear, doctrines that will never change, even though the understanding of them continues to be amplified in time by the contemplation of the faithful.

Follow the journey on the atlas map. With the map B 10 (the Hammond Atlas) we look at the land to the east of the delta of the Nile, the land of Goshen. It is here the people lived who worked as slaves for Ramses II. Through God's intervention, they were freed and were taken miraculously across the Red Sea. Then they followed the red line on the map, across the desert south to Elim, Rephidim, finally to Sinai, which you can locate at the bottom of the peninsula. Then after a year during which Moses gave them the rudimentary forms of their religion, and mediated the Law both civil and religious to them, they broke camp with their new worship center, the Tabernacle and the Ark, and traveled north to the oasis at Kadesh-barnea. From there Moses sent out twelve spies who went through the land from south to north and who, except for Caleb and Joshua, returned in fear that the great cities they had seen were impregnable against their weak force. Because of this lack of faith, they were condemned to more wandering and lived at Kadesh or its surroundings for a long time, then finally turned south to Ezion geber, back up the Arabah skirting Edom and Moab because these kings would not allow them to follow the King's highway. They traversed instead the rough wadies that form that part of the world. Finally they settled on the plains of Moab, where Moses was allowed to climb Mt. Nebo for a look from south to north. He died and the Lord buried him.

God takes what is and infuses it with divine meaning. From here Joshua would lead the people into the land promised them, returning the bones of Joseph to the burial spot of Abraham as he had requested 400 years earlier. Viewing the slides we will see that many of the forms Moses used for the tabernacle and its furnishings were dependent on forms already in use. He had seen portable pavilions for kings in Egypt, and arks which kings had carried on poles. Abraham had known the laws of Hammurabi and was influenced by them, transmitting some of them through the Hebrews. Here again we see God honoring the human milieu, working through what is, because all that is true is from Him in whatever culture it is found. God appropriated these things and transformed their meaning, purifying them of false accretions, to truly reveal Himself to the Chosen People. It was God's plan of the

Tabernacle that he gave to Moses to replicate as the center of worship for the wanderers; a plan that is still apparent in traditional Catholic Churches.

What has the Pentateuch revealed about God and Man ? What form of worship has developed to express their relationship? There is an interrelatedness in our three categories. If God is love, then it follows that mankind, despite his sin, is loveable. If God is deliverer, then mankind needs deliverance. God is One, thereby separating these people from those who worshipped multitudinous gods. God is Holy, demanding justice and morality from His people. God orders and creates. People are blessed if they are good, that is, if they follow the order, and cursed if they depart from it. We must follow His will if we are to have fruitful lives. These laws are never revoked. If we want our bodies, our animals to be fruitful, our kneading bowls, our bank account to be full and ample, then we must follow God's laws of justice and morality. If then we feel that we are pinched and haven't what we need, if finances are a problem, the place to start is meditation on the Law of God. Our adherence to it or our departure from it - work on the Sabbath, covetousness, or any other lacks in fulfilling this Law, will hinder a blessed life. We should also consider our generosity in the matter of tithing to the Lord out of our increase. We cannot expect blessing where God's law is not heeded. There will be other important lessons for living a holy life, both for the Hebrews as they continue on with God and for us, but the advanced lessons will not erase any of these basic rules for living a righteous and happy life.

For a helpful review, the diagrams of the first eleven lessons picture each lesson, presenting in a glance the major themes and their relationships. They may stimulate questions and comments from the students.

The slides available for this lesson follow the journey that is drawn on page B 10 in the Hammond Atlas.

Lesson 12 Review of Books of the Law Synopsis

	GOD	MAN	WORSHIP				
Gen 1	creator good love order, plan values, written into creation works six days	contingent on God in God's image given dominion given freedom unified like Trinity innocence, freedom	covenant		makes promises to Abram and his descendants personal God changer of character	Be blameless for fruit, three persons in covenant marriage	circumcision
Gen 2	Sabbath rest grants equality	made of something provided for perfectly woman contingent on man	Sabbath rest	Gen 22	He tests	change for woman comes through her husband loving obedience is primary above all	sacrifice provided by God
Gen 3	calls to responsibility accountability not as ignorant children, but adults	freedom of choice guilty of wrong choice breaker of relationship work shall be hard nature will resist man's effort childbirth painful estrangement paradise barred		Gen 35	He is jealous God provides the sacrifice	trust required	
Gen 12	promise not to destroy mankind protector of women called by Him does not allow their degradation	blessed despite sin use sexuality for fruitfulness races sprang from the three sons of Noah woman called to trust and follow to have one wife regardless of appearances to the contrary	you shall not eat blood a reckoning for deaths Covenant	Gen 45	He appears to successive generations He brings good out of everything	Remember	altar
Gen 17			altar sacrifice called on God's name	Ex 3	He delivers the slave He sends whom He chooses Protector of the weak I AM WHO AM THE SUBSISTENT ONE	man is perfidious but God uses his evil for good instruments of God's will	Passover lamb slain blood deliverance only circumcised eat of it nothing left
				Ex 12	Executor of judgment on gods and men		

121 Lesson 12 Review of Books of Law Synopsis

			memorial feast holy assembly no leaven remembrance		intelligence knowledge craftsmanship artistry		ephod tabernacle sanctuary table bread of presence libations lampstands incense perpetual fire veil
Ex 13	deliverer amongst His People fire by night cloud by day		consecration of first born set apartness				holy of holies laying on of hands for priestly ministry no leftover offerings leave something for sojourner and poor no oppression no curses no stumbling blocks no injustice no slander no hate
Ex 19	possessor natural law is His awesome, holy death to unauthorized	obedience priests-holy nation believe be consecrated	covenant cleansing ritual refrain from sex	Lv 3 Lv 19 HOLY		demands holy people	no vengeance grudge offerings for sin atonement for sin penance good priest managers no augury, witchcraft no harlotry justice for all no child sacrifice no bestiality no incest distinction between clean and unclean priesthood- words and governance anointing oil
Ex 20	LAWGIVER		no images no other gods no oaths no taking the name in vain observe the Sabbath honor father, mother no murder no adultery no theft no lying no covetousness no envy, greed Fear the Lord altar of earth burnt offering peace offering stone, not hewn			love your neighbor forgiveness fear the Lord separated people	
Ex 25 Ex 31	God giver of ability	man exercises it	ark	Lv 20 Lv 21 uses intermediaries			

122 Lesson 12 Review of Books of Law Synopsis

Nu 11	daily Provider anger of God	intercessor complainers stiff-necked	certain garments priestly marriage law no blemish	no other prolonger of days giver of lands chooser of persons		
		Spirit-filled		Dt t		
	bestower of the Spirit inspirer of prophecy	rebellious	prophecy		people speak to God walk straight not turning to right or left live long	
		usurpers of priestly functions anti-clerical	priesthood divinely ordained	Dt 6		
Nu 20	glory is all God's His initiative His action	man but instrument		Gad is ONE	love God with heart soul, mind, and strength	constant remembrance
			glorify God never self priests' authority passed on authority, garments role the 'ban' spoils are Gods	asks for remembrance preserver of faithful		
Nu 21				Dt 8	teach children diligently	
Dt 4	WORD voice don't add or detract from speaks to man			humbles the proud	live by the word of God not bread alone disciplined for love lacks nothing thankfulness beware of pride	Thanksgiving
	awesome-fear devouring fire jealous destroyer of Evil restorer	must heed obedience-Life wisdom to heed understanding keep soul diligently	keep statutes-wisdom ordinances make known to your children keep in your heart	Dt 14	sons of God His own possession	eating rules tithing care for priests, Levite fatherless-widow
	discipliner	unique peculiarity	corruption= destruction repentance= restoration discipline=love	father		
	steadfast lover great power	set-apartness		Dt 18 COMMUNICATOR	prophet to come from the people	Levites have the Lord for their inheritance no divination
				Dt 28 OBEDIENCE-DISOBEDIENCE		

123 Lesson 12 Review of Books of Law Synopsis

Lesson 12 Review Outline

Further revelations About **God** in the Pentateuch:

He is the Creator of all. There are no gods beside Him.
What He creates is good; He is good (beautiful, true, ordered).
He bestows freedom on Man.
He allows evil, disorder because He gives freedom of choice.
He created Man, which is man and woman, in His image.
Knowledge of Him is all-absorbing personal experience that produces fruit.
Obedience to Him bring blessings, disobedience brings curses to the third and fourth generation.
He loves the poor, but despises the rich (speaking spiritually).
He uses nature and natural law as super-nature to accomplish His purpose.
He makes promises to Man and keeps them.
He loves fruitfulness, and blesses His people with fruitfulness.
He destroys wickedness, but never again by a flood.
He tests those He loves.
He protects the weak, delivers the slave, fights for the meek.
He inspires prophecy.
He asks for Remembrance without forgetfulness.
He cannot be "seen: by men, even the holiest. Yet, He can be *seen*.
He loves with steadfast, unwavering love.
He allows respectful disagreement and input to His decisions.
He is with His People.
He is jealous and will not tolerate competition.
He judges, there is wrath, but He also forgives sins.
Men may find favor in His sight.
He feeds and provides for His people.
The Spirit of God is given for ability, intelligence, craftsmanship, artistry.

Guides to being **His People** in the Pentateuch:

They must not be presumptuous, arrogant or proud.
They must be humble, poor in spirit, lowly, servants.
Authority and service are equal roles among God's people.
They must trust Him first of all, and believe His Word.
He asks for circumcision of the body leading to circumcision of heart.
Man and woman become husband and wife with Yahweh their third partner.
They are to be fruitful.
They are to be pure, sexually and otherwise.

God's people are to become a multitude from every race and nation.
They are to be holy, set apart, different from others.
They are to be just and practice social justice.
They are to love their neighbors as themselves.
They have a special destiny.
Certain ones, called to lead, are given governance to serve the rest.
They may give input to Yahweh as responders to His will.
They shall observe dietary restrictions in obedience.
They are not, by unrighteousness, to defile the land.
They are not to practice augury, witchcraft, the occult, or human sacrifice.
Woman is to be the miracle bearer, the fruitful. Man the protector-governor.
When sinning, if they repent, and turn again, God will receive them.

Worship rooted in the Pentateuch: A worship prescribed by God, obediently followed, culminating in Christ and in the Roman Catholic Church alone.

Holy things are dedicated; there are rubrics for correct worship.
There are priests who are set-apart, and a High Priest.
Priests have vestments, priestly rituals, investitures.
Priestly authority is passed on by the laying on of hands.
There is blood sacrifice necessary for forgiveness of sin.
There is a communion meal, the priests have a special portion.
There is a water for cleansing of impurity, holy bread set apart, and perpetual fire.
God Himself provides the sacrifice (for Abram and Isaac).
Certain ones are called as leaders, given words and governance.
Priests are specially called and their order is not to be challenged.
We bow our heads to worship.
The Passover must be kept (becomes Triduum and Easter).
A Feast of Sinai becomes Pentecost (becomes Holy Spirit's descent).
We have holy assemblies.
We have holy writing, a Book of books we treat with honor.
A Sabbath rest must be observed.
There is a tabernacle with a Real Presence.
We must be ceremonially clean in order to take part - we do not come unworthily.
We do not come empty handed, but bring tithes and offerings.
We use unleavened bread, lampstands and lights.
We anoint with holy oil and use censers with incense.
There are unwitting sins and witting sins - venial and mortal.
We separate the clean from the unclean.
There are special holy orders to which some are committed - Nazi rites.

124 Lesson 12 Review of the Law outline