

THE WHOLE BIBLE: 66 BOOKS IN 10 WEEKS

Genesis – Deuteronomy

Introduction to the Pentateuch

- Torah, Five Books of Moses
- foundational text for all of Bible
- redemptive-history: *Creation | Fall | Redemption | New Creation*
- records creation to death of Moses, Israel in wilderness
- mainly history with large sections of law

INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS

- story of beginnings | distinct from rest of Pentateuch
- 2 parts: primeval history (ch.1-11); family of Abraham (ch.12-50)

Genesis 15:1-7

¹ The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

² But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”

⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵ And he brought Abram outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

⁶ And Abram believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

⁷ And he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.”

The Abrahamic Covenant

- v. 1 – promise of blessing
- 12:3 – “in you all families of earth shall be blessed”
- v. 5 – promise of offspring
- v. 7 – promise of land
- v. 6 – justification by faith alone (Galatians 3:6)

INTRODUCTION TO EXODUS

- story of Israel established as a nation
- rescue from oppression to greatest superpower of world (Egypt/Rome)
- 2 parts: out of Egypt (ch. 1-18); Covenant at Sinai (ch.19-40)

Exodus 24:3-8

³ Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

⁴ And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.

⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” ⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

The Mosaic Covenant

- 2 aspects: *unconditional* grace and *conditional* blessing
- essentially covenant of grace – salvation in Christ (v. 8)
- secondarily, covenant of works – “obey and you will live” (Lev. 18:5)
- this secondary purpose is to demonstrate that law kills | Eden redux
- drama of salvation: land → disobedience → exile → gracious return

INTRODUCTION TO LEVITICUS

- book of ritual holiness laws | priestly work, temple
- meticulous detail on various offerings, feasts, vows

Leviticus 13:1-3, 45-46

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ² “When a person has on the skin of his body a swelling or an eruption or a spot, and it turns into a case of leprous disease on the skin of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests, ³ and the priest shall examine the

diseased area on the skin of his body. And if the hair in the diseased area has turned white and the disease appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is a case of leprous disease. When the priest has examined him, he shall pronounce him unclean.

⁴⁵ “The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’” ⁴⁶ He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.

The clean laws

- ritual cleanness ultimately has to do with our standing before God
- to be unclean is to be cut off from God and community

INTRODUCTION TO NUMBERS

- story of wilderness wanderings | from Sinai to edge of Canaan
- picture of Christian life (1 Cor. 10, Heb. 3-4)
- 2 parts: preparations (ch.1-10:10); wilderness (ch.10:11-36)

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.”

⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Wilderness pattern

- people grumble against God
- Deut 8:3 – God let you hunger...man does not live by bread alone

- people experience consequences of rebellion
- fitting punishment – poison in snakes picture poison in hearts
- God, in sheer grace, provides salvation
- deep symbolism – sin (serpent) on a pole

Gospel connection

- John 3:14 – as Moses lifted up serpent, so Son of Man must be lifted up
- Jesus also went into the wilderness to be tempted

INTRODUCTION TO DEUTERONOMY

- text of Moses’ final sermon (on plains of Moab)
- full of gospel content, reminders of God’s grace, warnings

Deuteronomy 6:10-19

¹⁰ And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you – with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant – and when you eat and are full, ¹² then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

¹³ It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. ¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you, ¹⁵ for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God, lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

¹⁶ You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.

¹⁷ You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. ¹⁸ And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers ¹⁹ by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has promised.

Reiteration of Mosaic Covenant

- gracious nature of covenant
- worship the Lord alone | no other gods
- land is conditional on obedience