

# OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

## *Lesson 5*

### Genesis – Part Four THE PENTATEUCH

1. Our earlier classes have set the state for the Biblical saga. We have studied the creation of man. We know mankind's high calling. We have learned of his fall from fellowship with God. This brings us to the ultimate focus of the Bible:

#### GOD'S REDEMPTION OF THE HUMAN RACE

2. Redemption

The Bible gives us the story of redemption. Through its books, we read of God bringing his kingdom into the lives of mankind. Or we can say, we read how God has brought mankind into his Kingdom. Throughout scripture, God reveals himself and his salvation through both words and deeds.

- A. Progressive Revelation

There are many facets to the revelation of God and his Kingdom work of redemption for mankind. As the Bible was composed over centuries by many different people, the Holy Spirit tells the story of redemption in a way that reveals more and more of the character and work of God.

- B. Old Testament

If we sharpen our focus now onto the Old Testament, we will see the redemption saga unfold in three parts:

1. The preparation for the Kingdom of God in its Old Testament form.
2. The establishment of the Kingdom of God in its Old Testament form through Moses.
3. The development, expression and extension of the Kingdom of God in its Old Testament form through the prophets and poets.

C. Old Testament “Divisions”

There are three “classes” or “divisions” of writings in the Old Testaments. (Actually, the divisions are sometimes put into two, rather than three classes). They are:

1. The Law (the “Torah” or first five books)
2. The Prophets
  - a. The “early” prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel & Kings)
  - b. The “later” prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and “the Twelve Minors”)
3. The writings (Hagiography)  
(Poetry, Daniel, Historical)

**3. The Pentateuch**

- A/K/A - The Torah (Dt. 31:26, Josh. 1:8, etc.)  
- The Law  
- The Five Books of Moses

In the first five books of the Old Testament (the “Pentateuch”) we explore both the preparation for the Kingdom of God in its Old Testament form and the establishment of the Kingdom of God in its Old Testament form through Moses.

- A. While the Pentateuch is five different books or parts, it is actually one carefully constructed presentation covering from creation through the death of Moses.
- B. The history is conveyed in five books or parts. They are:
  1. Preliminary history (Adam—Patriarchs) — Genesis
  2. Inauguration of the Kingdom of God in its Old Testament form at Mt. Sinai — Exodus

3. Spiritual organization of the Kingdom of God in its Old Testament form — Leviticus
4. Political organization of the Kingdom of God in its Old Testament form — Numbers
5. A recapitulation of the establishment of the Kingdom of God in its Old Testament form — Deuteronomy

C. Authorship and Date

Both the content and the form attest to authorship in the Mosaic age. Much modern scholarship for the last 150 years has argued (and even assumed?) a divisive theory of authorship. This trail of scholarship argues that the Pentateuch represents a convergence of four traditions put together in a united whole around 500 B.C.

This modern approach ignores the histological evidences of the Mosaic age (Egyptisms, Hittitisms, etc.). This approach also contradicts the express statements of Mosaic authorship (Ex. 17:14; 24:3,4,7; 34:27; Num. 33:2; Dt. 31:9, 24ff)