
a *Grace Notes* course

Foundations 200

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Foundations 202

Old Testament Survey: Genesis to Deuteronomy

Grace Notes

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Note: part of the assignment for completing the Foundations II course lessons is to read the books of the Bible that are discussed in the lessons.

The Law: The First Five Books

The first five books of the Bible are sometimes called the Pentateuch which means “five books.” They are also known as the books of the law because they contain the laws and instruction given by the Lord through Moses to the people of Israel. These books were written by Moses, except for the last portion of Deuteronomy because it tells about his death. These five books lay the foundation for the coming of Christ in that here God chooses and brings into being the nation of Israel. As God’s chosen people, Israel became the keepers of the Old Testament, the recipients of the covenants of promise, and the race of the Messiah (Romans 3:2; 9:1-5).

Genesis

(The Book of Beginnings)

[Read Genesis]

Author and Name of the Book

Moses wrote this book. The name Genesis means “beginning” and is taken from the Septuagint (LXX), which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament.

Date of Writing

1450-1410 BC

Theme and Purpose

Even a casual reading of the Book of Genesis reveals the major theme of blessing and cursing. For obedience and faith, there is blessing as in the Garden of Eden, but for disobedience, there is cursing. The entire book turns on this theme and its opposite, cursing. But perhaps the main theme is the choice of a nation through Abraham and the Abrahamic covenant. Through Abraham God promised to bless the nations (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-21).

Genesis not only means ‘beginning’, but it is the book of beginnings. The book of Genesis gives us

our historical point of reference, from which all subsequent revelation proceeds. In the book of Genesis all the major themes of the Bible have their origin. It is a book of many beginnings: in it we see the beginning of the universe, of man and woman, of human sin and the fall of the human race, the beginning of God’s promises of salvation, and the beginning of the nation Israel as the chosen people of God because of God’s special purpose for them as the race of the Messiah and Savior. In Genesis we learn about Adam and Eve, about Satan the tempter, about Noah, the Flood, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph and his brothers. We also have the beginning of marriage, family, work, sin, murder, capital punishment, sacrifice, races, languages, civilization, Sabbath, the first attempt at a one-world government, and Babylonianism (the religion developed at the Tower of Babel). The Bible is an historical revelation. It is the account of God’s activity in history.

A common phrase found in Genesis is “these are the generations of.” It is used eleven times to introduce the reader to the next section which gives information about what happened in connection with important events and people from the creation of the heavens and the earth to all the patriarchs of Israel.

Key People

Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, Jacob, Rachel, Joseph.

Christ as Seen in GENESIS

Prophetically: Immediately after the fall, the promise of salvation is given in the seed of the woman (3:15), but then the Messianic relationships are made clear throughout Genesis: the line of Seth (4:25), the offspring of Shem (9:26), the family of Abraham (12:3), the seed of Isaac (26:3), the sons of Jacob (46:3), and the tribe of Judah (49:10).

There are several key “types” that portray the Savior in Genesis. **Adam** is a type of Christ (Romans 5:14).

Adam is the head of the old creation and Christ is the head of the new spiritual creation.

Abel's offering of a blood sacrifice points to Christ who would die for us. Abel's murder by Cain may also illustrate Christ's death.

Melchizedek as the king and priest is also a type of Christ (Hebrews 7:3).

Joseph, who was loved dearly by his father, betrayed by his brothers, and yet became the means of their deliverance typifies Christ.

Outline

1. Four Events. (1:1-11:32)

- A. The Creation Of The World And Man. (1:1-2-25)
- B. The Corruption Of Man, The Fall. (3:1-5:32)
- C. The Destruction Of Man, The Flood. (6:1-9:29)
- D. The Dispersion Of Man, The Nations. (10:1-11:32)

2. Four People: The Election Of A Nation And Preparation For The Redeemer. (12:1-50:26)

- A. Abraham (The Father Of Faith And Of The Nation Israel). (12:1-23:20)
- B. Isaac (The Beloved Son Of Promise). (24:1-26:35)
- C. Jacob (Scheming And Chastening). (27:1-36:43)
- D. Joseph (Suffering And Glory). (37:1-50:26)

Exodus

(The Book of Redemption)

[Read Exodus]

Author and Name of the Book

Moses wrote this book. "Exodus" is a Latin word derived from the Greek *EXODOS*, the name given to the book by those who translated it into the Greek Septuagint (LXX). The word means to "exit."

Date of Writing

1450 - 1410 BC

Theme and Purpose

Two themes prevail in Exodus: (1) Redemption as pictured in the Passover, and (2) deliverance from

the bondage of Egypt as seen in the Exodus out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea.

After more than two hundred years of growth in Egypt, Exodus continues the history of God's chosen people, the nation of Israel, and describes their deliverance out of Egypt and the giving of the Law. It describes the birth, history, and call of Moses by God to lead the people out of their Egyptian bondage and into the Promised Land, the land of Canaan. Through the Passover lamb, the sparing of the firstborn, along with the miracles of the ten plagues, and the crossing of the Red Sea, God showed His people that He was not only more powerful than any Egyptian Pharaoh, but was the Sovereign LORD, Yahweh, the God of redemption and revelation.

Once the people had crossed the Red Sea and arrived in the wilderness, God gave them His righteous law and declared that they were a treasured possession to Him and were to be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation as a testimony to the nations (Exodus 19:4-7). This holy law, including the Ten Commandments, demonstrated God's holiness, taught them how to love God and one another, but in the process, it also demonstrated how all fall short of the holiness of God and need a way of access to God that provides forgiveness. This was provided for in the Tabernacle, the sacrifices, and the Levitical Priesthood.

Key People

Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Pharaoh.

Christ as Seen in EXODUS

While Exodus contains no direct prophecy of Christ, there are a number of beautiful types of the Savior. In many ways, **Moses** is a type of Christ. Deuteronomy 18:15 shows that Moses, as a prophet, anticipates Christ. Both are kinsman-redeemers who were endangered in infancy, renounced their power to serve others, and functioned as mediators, lawgivers, and deliverers.

The **Passover** is a very specific type of Christ as the sinless Lamb of God (John 1:29, 36; 1 Corinthians 5:7).

The **Seven Feasts**, each of which portray some aspect of the Savior.

The **Exodus itself**, which Paul connects with baptism, pictures our identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (1 Corinthians 10:1-2; Romans 6:2-3).

The **Manna and Water** are both portrayed as pictures of Christ (John 6:31-35, 48-63; 1 Corinthians 10:3-4).

The **Tabernacle** portrays the Savior in its material, colors, furniture, arrangement, and the offerings sacrificed there (Hebrews 9:1-10:18).

The **High Priest** quite clearly foreshadows the person and ministry of Christ (Hebrews 4:14-16; 9:11-12, 24-28).

Outline

1. Redemption From Egypt. (1:1-18:27)

- A. In Bondage (Subjection). (1:1-12:32)
- B. Out Of Bondage (Redemption By Blood And Power). (12:33-14:31)
- C. Journeying To Sinai (Education). (15:1-18:27)

2. Revelation From God. (19:1-40:38)

- A. The Giving Of The Law. (19:1-24:18)
- B. The Institution Of The Tabernacle. (25:1-31:18)
- C. The Breaking Of The Law. (32:1-34:35)
- D. The Construction Of The Tabernacle. (35:1-40:38)

Leviticus

(The Book of Holiness)

[Read Leviticus]

Author and Name of the Book

Moses wrote this book. Leviticus receives its name from the Septuagint and means “relating to the Levites.” The Levites were the priests who were chosen of God to minister to the nation. The book of Leviticus contains many of the laws given by God to direct them in their work as priests for the worship of God.

Date of Writing

1450-1410 BC

Theme and Purpose

Leviticus 11:45 says, “*Be holy, because I am holy.*” The directives given in the book of Leviticus showed Israel was to walk before God as a holy people. Leviticus was designed to teach Israel (1) how to worship and walk with God and (2) how the nation was to fulfill its calling as a nation of priests. The great theme of Leviticus is **holiness**. Sanctification is the process of making one holy. A holy God can only be approached on the basis of sacrifice through the mediation of a priest.

Key People

Moses and Aaron.

Christ as Seen in LEVITICUS

Similar to Exodus, a number of types of Christ are evident in Leviticus.

The **Five Offerings** all typify the person and work of Christ in His sinless life, submission to the Father that we might have fellowship with God.

The **High Priest** is a very prominent type of Christ in Leviticus.

The **Seven Feasts** also form types of the Savior teaching us about His perfect person, His substitutionary sacrifice, His resurrection from the dead, and His atoning work.

Outline

1. Laws Of Sacrifice. (1:1-17:16)

- A. For Approach To God. (1:1-7:38)
- B. For Priests. (8:1-10:20)
- C. Regarding Purity. (11:1-15:33)
- D. Regarding National Atonement. (16:1-17:16)

2. Laws Of Sanctification. (18:1-27:34)

- A. For God’s People. (18:1-20:27)
- B. For God’s Priests. (21:1-22:33)
- C. In Worship. (23:1-24:23)
- D. In The Land Of Canaan. (25:1-26:46)
- E. Concerning Vows. (27:1-34)

Numbers

(Wilderness Wanderings)

[Read Numbers]

Author and Name of the Book

Moses wrote this. Numbers gets its name from the two accounts in chapters 1 and 26 of the numbering or counting of the people of Israel first at Mount Sinai and second on the plains of Moab.

Date Of Writing

1450-1410 BC

Theme and Purpose

Though Numbers gets its name from the numbering of the people, it is primarily concerned with nearly 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. A journey which should have only lasted eleven days became 38-years of suffering simply because of the unbelief and disobedience of the people. Numbers shows the consequence of failing to mix faith with the promises of God (Hebrews 3:16-4:2). Additionally, Numbers teaches us that while life does have its “wilderness” experiences, God’s people do not have to stay in those conditions. The choices we make chart the direction we take in our life. Joshua will illustrate this later.

Another important theme shown throughout the book of Numbers is found in God’s continual care for His people. Over and over again, regardless of their rebellion and unbelief, He miraculously supplied their needs. He provided them with water, manna, and quail. He continued to love and forgive the people even when they complained, grumbled, and rebelled against Him.

Key People

Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Joshua, Caleb, Balak.

Christ as Seen in NUMBERS

Perhaps no place is there a clearer portrait of Christ and His crucifixion than in the **lifted up serpent** (Numbers 21:4-9 cf. John 3:14).

The **rock that quenched the thirst** of the people is a type of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4).

The daily **manna** pictures Christ as the bread that came down from heaven (John 6:31-33).

The **pillar of cloud** and **fire** portray the guidance of Christ and the cities of refuge certainly portray Christ as our refuge from judgment.

Finally, the **red heifer** is also a type of Christ (Numbers 19).

Outline

1. Preparation At Sinai (Old Generation). (1:1-10:36)

A. The Position And Numbering Of The People. (1:1-4:49)

B. The Precepts Of God And Sanctification Of The People. (5:1-9:14)

C. The Pilgrimage Toward The Promised Land. (9:15-10:36)

2. Failure Of The Old Generation. (11:1-25:18)

A. Discontent Along The Way. (11:1-12:16)

B. Disbelief At Kadesh-Barnea. (13:1-14:45)

C. Discipline From The Lord. (15:1-25:18)

3. Preparation Of The New Generation. (26:1-36:13)

A. Reorganization Of Israel. (26:1-27:23)

B. Regulation Of Offerings And Vows. (28:1-30:16)

C. Regionalization Of The Land. (31:1-36:13)

Deuteronomy

(Reviewing The Law)

[Read Deuteronomy]

Author and Name of the Book

Moses wrote this book. The English title, which comes from the Septuagint, means “second law-giving” and comes from the mistranslation of 17:18, which should have been translated as “a copy of this law.” Deuteronomy is not a second law, but rather a review and expansion of the original law given at Sinai.

Date of Writing

1410 BC

Theme and Purpose

Watch yourself lest you forget. After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, the Israelites were

on the eve of entering the promised land. Before they did, it was necessary (lest they forget what God had done and who they were) that they be reminded about all that God had done for them and about God’s holy law which was so vital to their ability to remain in the land and function as God’s holy nation and as a kingdom of priests to the nations (Deuteronomy 4:1-8).

Deuteronomy ends with the renewal of God’s covenant with Israel (Chapter 29), Joshua’s appointment as the new leader (Chapter 31), and Moses’ death (Chapter 34).

Key People

Moses and Joshua.

Christ as Seen in DEUTERONOMY

The statement about Moses in 18:15 is one of the clearest portraits of Christ. It reads, *“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.”* Further, Moses, as a type of Christ, is the only figure other than Christ to fill all three of the offices of prophet (34:10-12), priest (Exodus 32:31-35), and king (although Moses was not king, he functioned as ruler of Israel; 33:4-5).¹

Outline

1. Introduction. (1:1-5)

2. Review Of History. (1:6-4:43)

- A. From Mount Sinai To Kadesh Barnea. (1:6-18)
- B. At Kadesh Barnea. (1:19-46)
- C. From Kadesh Barnea To Moab. (2:1-23)
- D. Conquest Of East Jordan. (2:24-3:20)
- E. Change Of Leadership. (3:21-29)
- F. Summary Of The Covenant. (4:1-43)

3. Review Of The Law. (4:44-26:19)

- A. Introduction. (4:44-49)
- B. The Ten Commandments. (5:1-33)

4. Applications Of The Law. (6:1-11:32)

- A. Teach The Law. (6:1-25)
- B. Conquer Canaan. (7:1-26)
- C. Remember The Lord. (8:1-20)
- D. Remove Self-Righteousness. (9:1-10:11)
- E. Choose Blessings Or Cursings. (10:12-11:32)

5. Additional Laws. (12:1-26:19)

- A. Ceremonial Laws. (12:1-16:17)
- B. Civil Laws. (16:18-20:20)
- C. Social Laws. (21:1-26:19)

6. Acceptance Of The Covenant. (27:1-30:20)

- A. Confirming The Covenant In Canaan. (27:1-28:68)
- B. Establishing The Covenant In Palestine. (29:1-30:20)

7. Change Of Leader. (31:1-34:12)

- A. Moses Charges Joshua And Israel. (31:1-13)
- B. God Charges Israel. (31:14-21)
- C. The Book Of The Law Is Deposited. (31:22-29)
- D. The Song Of Moses. (31:30-32:47)
- E. The Death Of Moses. (32:48-34:12)

Themes to Remember

Genesis	Choice Of The Nation
Exodus	Redemption Of The Nation
Leviticus	Sanctification Of The Nation
Numbers	Direction Of The Nation
Deuteronomy	Teaching Of The Nation

¹ Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa, *Talk Thru the Old Testament*, Vol. I, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1983, p. 39.