**The Pentateuch**

**Student Syllabus**

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| Academic  Packet | **Resources for Groups**  **Using the Academic Packets** |

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**About Third Millennium Ministries**

Founded in 1997, Third Millennium Ministries is a non-profit Evangelical Christian ministry dedicated to providing:

**Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.**

Our goal is to offer free Christian education to hundreds of thousands of pastors and Christian leaders around the world who lack sufficient training for ministry. We are meeting this goal by producing and globally distributing an unparalleled multimedia seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Our curriculum is also being translated into more than a dozen other languages through our partner ministries. The curriculum consists of graphic-driven videos, printed instruction, and internet resources. It is designed to be used by schools, groups, and individuals, both online and in learning communities.

Over the years, we have developed a highly cost-effective method of producing award-winning multimedia lessons of the finest content and quality. Our writers and editors are theologically-trained educators, our translators are theologically-astute native speakers of their target languages, and our lessons contain the insights of hundreds of respected seminary professors and pastors from around the world. In addition, our graphic designers, illustrators, and producers adhere to the highest production standards using state-of-the-art equipment and techniques.

In order to accomplish our distribution goals, Third Millennium has forged strategic partnerships with churches, seminaries, Bible schools, missionaries, Christian broadcasters and satellite television providers, and other organizations. These relationships have already resulted in the distribution of countless video lessons to indigenous leaders, pastors, and seminary students. Our websites also serve as avenues of distribution and provide additional materials to supplement our lessons, including materials on how to start your own learning community.

Third Millennium Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) corporation. We depend on the generous, tax-deductible contributions of churches, foundations, businesses, and individuals. For more information about our ministry, and to learn how you can get involved, please visit [www.thirdmill.org](http://www.thirdmill.org).

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## Course Description

The first five books of the Old Testament are commonly called the Pentateuch. They tell the story of the nation of Israel from creation to preparation for the conquest of the Promised Land. But is the Pentateuch simply the historical account of God’s chosen people, or is it something more? This course explores the books of Genesis through Deuteronomy, examining why they were written, what they meant to their original audience, and how we should respond to them today. This course is based on the lecture series, [*The Pentateuch*](http://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/pen), produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Scott Redd with contributions from a variety of professors.

NOTE: This course includes the lessons that are also offered separately in the courses "Primeval History" and "Father Abraham."

## Professors

In this course a wide variety of professors from different backgrounds and different denominations participate in the making of the videos. That list has been given at the bottom of this syllabus.

## Goals and Objectives

GOALS

In this course, we would like to accomplish the following:

1. We hope you will become more interested in studying the Pentateuch and in applying its teachings to your life.

2. We hope that you will make use of all the instructional elements of the course to learn why the books of the Pentateuch were written, what they meant to their original audience, and how we should respond to them today.

3. We hope that you will apply the teachings of the Pentateuch to your own life.

OBJECTIVES

When you have done the following, it will show that the goals are met:

1. Obtain satisfactory grades on the tests, demonstrating that you can identify the key information regarding the structure, content, original meaning and modern application of the books of the Pentateuch.

2. Answer all the application questions in the study guides, showing how you have applied the teachings of the course to your own life.

## The Facilitator

This course is designed to be studied in a group with a facilitator, supervisor, or mentor. If you do not have a facilitator, you may wish to speak with your pastor or some spiritual leader in your church. The facilitator should read the "General Guidelines for Facilitators."

## Other Materials

Besides this syllabus, there are other resources you will need for this course. They should be available in the same place, or same folder, where you found this file. If not, talk to your facilitator.

## Credit

Third Millennium does not offer credit for their courses. However, the materials are offered freely to any institution that would like to use them. If **the student would like to seek credit for the course, he needs to find an institution that will supervise his studies and give him credit. He should consult with them to see about their requirements and expectations.**

## Thematic Outline of the Course

NOTE 1: This course is longer than most Third Millennium courses, with a total of eleven video lessons. Therefore, you may prefer to study the course in two parts. Or you may prefer to give the students twice the credit of a typical course.

NOTE 2: If a student has previously studied either "The Primeval History" or "Father Abraham," he or she may talk to the facilitator or other supervisor to ask that the credit from those courses be applied to this course. In that case, if "Primeval History" has already been studied, the student may skip lessons 2-5 of this course, and if "Father Abraham" has already been studied, the student may skip lessons 6-8.

1. Introduction to the Pentateuch  
2. A Perfect World (Genesis 1:2-2:3)  
3. Paradise Lost and Found (Genesis 2:4-3:24)  
4. A World of Violence (Genesis 4:1-6:8)  
5. The Right Direction (Genesis 6:9-11:9)  
6. The Life of Abraham: Structure and Content  
7. The Life of Abraham: Original Meaning  
8. The Life of Abraham: Modern Application  
9. The Patriarch Jacob  
10. Joseph and His Brothers  
11. An Overview of Exodus

## General Explanation of Assignments

The guidelines for assignments below are meant to be suggestions. Each group or academic institution may customize the course according to the needs of their students. For example, some may prefer to require the additional reading, while others may not. The same applies to the optional written project. Furthermore, some may prefer to meet once a week, while others prefer to meet more often or less often. Some groups may prefer to restructure the assignments to fit a regular pattern of classes, possibly a period of eight weeks, for example.

Don't worry about the details now, since they will be given to you as you go through the assignments of each session, but in order for you to know what to plan for, the suggested assignments can be summarized as follows:

**The Lectures**

1. Watch the video lectures (or listen to the audio, or read the text version).  
2. Complete the study guides for each section of each lesson. This includes writing notes on the lesson while using the outline provided, answering the review questions, and answering the application questions.   
3. Take the tests on each lesson. These will be administered in the classes. (For credit, they must be graded by the authorities of the academic institution where the student is seeking credit.)

**Optional Additional Reading**

Read the additional reading. This may be done in two different ways, according to the agreement you have with the facilitator or academic institution. Option 1: Read the selected additional reading provided for this course, and take the test on it. Option 2: Read at least 300 pages of additional reading that you select from the list of "Recommended Extra Reading." In this case, you should turn in a written report on each book or article, using the "Form for reading reports." (For credit, these reports must be turned in for evaluation.)

**Optional Written Project**

Write an 8-10 page project, following the instructions found below. (For credit, this must be turned in for evaluation.)

## Grades

We recommend calculating the final grade as follows, depending on the option selected:

a) Without the additional reading or written project:

Each test is 9.09%.

b) Including the additional reading, but without the written project:

Each test is 7% (total: 77%).  
The additional reading is 23%.

c) Including the written project, but without the additional reading:

Each test is 7% (total: 77%).  
The written project is 23%.

d) Including both the additional reading and the written project:

Each test is 6% (total: 66%).  
The additional reading is 10%.  
The written project is 24%.

## Specific Assignments for Each Session

These plans are only suggestions. Your facilitator may decide to modify them, as he talks things over with the group.

**INITIAL PLANNING MEETING**

The first meeting is a brief orientation for the course. There is no homework before the first meeting. The student will receive the materials he needs and talk over plans for the course.

NOTE: If the group is studying a series of courses, we recommend that you take advantage of the last session of each course to make arrangements for the following course, thus avoiding unnecessary extra meetings.

**LESSON 1**

Watch the first lesson in the video series from *Third Millennium*, "The Pentateuch." The first lesson of this series is called "Introduction to the Pentateuch." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the first video lesson, called "Modern Critical Approaches." (The video time is from the beginning to 31 minutes and 23 seconds, 00-31:23.)

Remember: You may also download the audio files for listening to the lecture, or you may also read the text version.

2. Use Study Guide 1.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the video lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.

SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Modern Evangelical Approaches" (Video time: 31:24-1:13:43), using Study Guide 1.2.

2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

NOTE: If you are going to do the additional reading, we recommend that you begin to do part of it now, to avoid reading a lot at the end of the course. See the assignments below.

**LESSON 2**

Watch the second video lesson of the series, called "A Perfect World" We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson. (This is the same as Lesson 1 of "The Primeval History.")

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of this second video lesson, called "Overview" (00-15:12).

2. Use Study Guide 2.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the video lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.

SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Literary Structure" (15:13-26:04), using Study Guide 2.2.

SECTION 3

Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Original Meaning" (26:05-43:31), using Study Guide 2.3.

SECTION 4

1. Repeat this procedure for section 4 of the video lesson, "Modern Application" (43:32-1:01:34), using Study Guide 2.4.

2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

**LESSON 3**

Study the third video lesson of the series, called "Paradise Lost & Found (Gen. 2:4–3:24)."

We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson. (This is the same as Lesson 2 of "The Primeval History.")

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the third video lesson, called "Literary Structure" (00-13:46).

2. Use Study Guide 3.1 to help learn the contents of the section.

SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Original Meaning" (13:47-43:56), using Study Guide 3.2.

SECTION 3

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Modern Application" (43:57-1:01:56), using Study Guide 3.3.

2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

**LESSON 4**

Study the fourth video lesson of the series, called "A World of Violence (Gen. 4:1–6:8)." (This is the same as Lesson 3 of "The Primeval History.") We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the fourth video lesson, called "Literary Structure" (00-19:19).

2. Use Study Guide 4.1 to help learn the contents of the section.

SECTION 2

Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Original Meaning" (19:20-46:34), using Study Guide 4.2.

SECTION 3

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Modern Application" (46:35-1:02:00), using Study Guide 4.3.

2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

**LESSON 5** Study the fifth video lesson of the series, called "The Right Direction (Gen. 6:9–11:9)." (This is the same as Lesson 4 of "The Primeval History.") We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson. SECTION 1  
1. Watch section 1 of the fifth video lesson, called "Literary Structure" (00-16:52).   
2. Use Study Guide 5.1 to help learn the contents of the section.  
  
SECTION 2   
Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Original Meaning" (16:53-41:48), using Study Guide 5.2.  
  
SECTION 3   
1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Modern Application" (41:49- 1:00:50), using Study Guide 5.3.  
2. Review all the sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

**LESSON 6**

Watch lesson six in the video series, called "The Life of Abraham; Structure and Content." (This is the same as Lesson 1 of "Father Abraham.") We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Literary Design" (00-20:50).

Remember: You may also download the audio files for listening to the lecture, or you may also read the text version.

2. Use Study Guide 6.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.

SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Major Themes" (20:51-48:33), using Study Guide 6.2.

2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

**LESSON 7**

Watch lesson seven of the video series, called "The Life of Abraham; Original Meaning." (This is the same as Lesson 2 of "Father Abraham.") We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of this video lesson, called "Connections" (00-28:11).

2. Use Study Guide 7.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the video lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.

SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Implications" (28:12-1:06:44), using Study Guide 7.2.

2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

**LESSON 8**

Study the lesson eight of the video series, called "The Life of Abraham: Modern Application." (This is the same as Lesson 3 of "Father Abraham.") We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Abraham and Jesus" (00-28:33).

2. Use Study Guide 8.1 to help learn the contents of the section.

SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Israel and the Church" (28:34-56:59), using Study Guide 8.2.

2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

**LESSON 9**

Study the ninth lesson of the video series, called "The Patriarch Jacob."

We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Structure and Content" (00-30:29).

2. Use Study Guide 9.1 to help learn the contents of the section.

SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Major Themes" (30:30-1:12:12), using Study Guide 9.2.

2. Review all sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

**LESSON 10**Study lesson ten of the video series, called "Joseph and His Brothers." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson. SECTION 1  
1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Structure and Content" (00-34:10).   
2. Use Study Guide 10.1 to help learn the contents of the section.  
  
SECTION 2   
1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Major Themes" (34:11-1:10:21), using Study Guide 10.2.  
2. Review all the sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

**LESSON 11**Study lesson eleven of the video series, called "An Overview of Exodus." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video lesson. SECTION 1  
1. Watch section 1 of the video lesson, called "Initial Considerations" (00-32:36).   
2. Use Study Guide 11.1 to help learn the contents of the section.  
  
SECTION 2   
Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Structure and Content" (32:37-1:11:04), using Study Guide 11.2.  
  
SECTION 3   
1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Major Themes" (1:11:05-1:51:38), using Study Guide 11.3.  
2. Review all the sections of the video lesson, in preparation for the test.

**ADDITIONAL READING**

Option 1:

1. Read the following:

a. Calvin's Commentary on chapters 1-25 of Genesis.

b. The books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy in your Bible.

2. Use the study guides to help find the most important points.   
3. Take the test in the next class on this reading.

Note: Some groups may prefer to require only one sections of the above for additional reading.

Option 2:

1. Read at least 300 pages of additional reading, selecting from the list of "Recommended Extra Reading."

2. Fill out a separate written report on each book or article, using the "Form for Reading Reports."

3. Prepare to share what you are learning from your reading and *turn in your written reports.*

**OPTIONAL WRITTEN PROJECT**

Some groups may require a written project. If so, we recommend the following guidelines:

Write an 8-10 page project, analyzing a brief passage from one of the books of the Pentateuch. Follow the specific steps given below, as well as the general "Guidelines for Writing an Essay" found in the academic packet.

**Specific Steps**

1. Select a brief passage, say from 4-10 verses, from one of the books of the Pentateuch. Choose a passage that may seem a little difficult to understand at first, something that stirs your interest.

2. Write down the questions that occur to you regarding the meaning of the passage. For example: What words do you not understand? What phrases seem perplexing? Is there something that seems to contradict some other passage of the Bible? Is there something that seems to go against your understanding of theology?

3. Begin to look for answers to these questions. Read different translations of the passage. Look at the surrounding context. Look up cross references that may shed light on the passage. Use a dictionary to look up words.

4. Study the historical background of the passage. The video lectures of this course provide a lot of background information, but you can also find additional information in the list of "Recommended Extra Reading." Consider the overall historical context of your passage. How does this fit into the history of the whole Bible? How does it fit into the general plan of redemption?

5. If you have already studied Hebrew, look up the passage in Hebrew and find the difficult words in a Hebrew dictionary. Look up cross references to see parallel passages or passages that deal with similar subjects.

6. If you have electronic software, such as *Logos* or *BibleWorks*, you can use these tools for your research. There are other software tools that are free, such as *E-Sword* or Gateway. See the "Recommended Extra Reading" to find these resources.

7. Find commentaries that you can trust and read their interpretation of the passage, still focusing especially on the questions you have written down. You may not agree with the commentaries, but they can be helpful, especially after you have already done your own thinking about the passage. Again, see the "Recommended Extra Reading” to find resources.

8. Make sure you keep good notes on your research. If you are quoting from some source, or even taking ideas without quoting exactly, you must write down the author, name of book, place of publishing, publishing company, year of publishing, and the page or pages where you got your ideas or your quotes.

9. Write a rough draft of the project.

a. Be very careful to study and follow the "Guidelines for Writing an Essay."  
b. Make an outline and begin writing. Make sure you include an introduction that stirs interest in the study.   
c. Explain the questions that you are especially researching. In the main body, you should include possible answers to your questions that others offer, then give your own conclusions. Back up your opinions with biblical evidence and linguistic resources.   
d. Try to discover the message of the passage for the believers who would read it at the time it was written, and try to apply the same message to people today. What practical importance does it have?   
e. Take into account how the passage relates to Christ and the plan of salvation.

d. Include a conclusion, summarizing your answers.

e. Make sure to add footnotes where you have used ideas from another source, and a bibliography at the end.

10. Write the final version of the project. Check again to make sure you are following the "Guidelines for Writing an Essay."

11. Read and re-read the project until it flows clearly and is easy to understand. Correct any spelling errors or grammatical errors.

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