

The Pentateuch

Essay Questions

LESSON
ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE PENTATEUCH



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The Primeval History

Essay Questions

LESSON
ONE

A PERFECT WORLD



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3. Why did Moses write these chapters?

4. Summarize the basic overview of Gen. 1:1-2:3?

5. What is the literary structure of the Dark Chaotic World in Gen. 1:1-2?

6. What is the literary structure of the Ideal World in Gen. 2:1-3?

7. What is the literary structure of the Six Days of Ordering in Gen. 1:3-31?

8. How do these literary structures help us understand Moses' purpose for writing?

9. What is the original meaning of the Dark Chaotic World?

10. What is the original meaning of the Ideal World?

11. What is the original meaning of the Six Days of Ordering?

12. Explain how the NT writers related the creation story to the inauguration of the kingdom.

The Primeval History

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LESSON
TWO

PARADISE LOST AND FOUND



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3. How did Moses identify the Garden of Eden and why did he explain the holiness of the Garden?

4. Explain how Moses described the motif of loyalty in both Eden and Canaan.

9. According to the New Testament, how does the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden apply to the consummation of the kingdom?

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LESSON
THREE

A WORLD OF VIOLENCE



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3. What does the literary structure of Genesis 4:1–6:8 reveal about Moses' purpose in writing?
4. What connections did Moses draw between violence and hope in the primeval history and in his contemporary world?

The Primeval History

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LESSON
FOUR

THE RIGHT DIRECTION



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3. Describe the connections between the flood of Noah's day and the experience of Israel in Moses' day. What implications did Moses intend his audience to draw from these connections?
4. What did Moses want his audience to learn from the account of Noah's sons in Genesis 9:18–10:32?

Father Abraham

Essay Questions

LESSON
ONE

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM: STRUCTURE AND CONTENT



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3. Why did Moses craft his literary portrait of Israel's first patriarch in this way?

4. Describe the structure of Genesis 12:1-3. Why is this structure significant?

5. What four main themes of Abraham's life are introduced in Genesis 12:1-3?
6. What are some similarities between the Israelites who lived in Moses' day and modern Christians?

Father Abraham

Essay Questions

LESSON
TWO

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM: ORIGINAL MEANING



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5. How does the lesson summarize the impact of Abraham's story on its original audience?

6. What four main themes did Moses express when writing about Abraham? How did these relate to his original audience?

7. Briefly summarize the five main steps of Abraham's life, and some of their main implications for the original audience.

Father Abraham

Essay Questions

LESSON
THREE

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM: MODERN APPLICATION



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1. How can we say that Christ is the singular seed of Abraham?
2. Describe the four major themes that connect the stories about Abraham to Jesus.

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LESSON
NINE

THE PATRIARCH JACOB



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3. Describe Isaac's interactions with the Philistines. What did Isaac's peace with the Philistines mean for Moses' original audience?

4. Why did Jacob's encounter with the Canaanites in Genesis 33:18–35:15 turn into conflict? How did Jacob respond to the situation?

5. Describe the antagonism between Jacob and Esau that caused their hostile separation in Genesis 26:34–28:22.

6. What events led to the peaceful separation between the brothers in Genesis 32:1–33:17?

7. What occurred during Jacob's time with Laban in Genesis 29:1–31:55? Why is this episode pivotal in Moses' account of Jacob's life?

8. How was God's grace to Jacob particularly relevant for Moses's original audience?

9. In what ways did Moses use Jacob's life to inspire his audience to show loyalty to God?

10. What evidence do we see in Scripture that God blessed Jacob both despite his disobedience and in response to his obedience?

11. What was God's special commission to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3, and how is this commission reflected in the story of Jacob?

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LESSON
TEN

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS



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3. The reconciliation between the brothers developed over three highly dramatic journeys to Egypt by Joseph's brothers. List and describe the major events that occurred during each journey.
4. How did Joseph's benevolent rule in Egypt benefit the people of Egypt? How did it benefit his own family?

5. The end of the story of Joseph and his brothers focuses on the harmony among the patriarchs. How did Jacob's blessings to his sons contribute to this harmony? How did Joseph's final interactions with his brothers contribute to the patriarchal harmony?

6. What four emphases does the story of Joseph share with the records of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Give some examples of how we see these emphases in Joseph's story.

7. In his narrative of Joseph and his brothers, Moses included the special emphases of national unity and national diversity. How did Moses expect these themes to impact his original audience?

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LESSON
ELEVEN

AN OVERVIEW OF EXODUS



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3. What was the purpose of the book of Exodus? What impact would Exodus have had on Moses' original audience?

4. The fact that New Testament authors often referred to the book of Exodus reminds us that the book is relevant for followers of Christ. How does the book of Exodus provide guidance for our lives today?

5. List and describe the major events of Moses' early life recorded in Exodus 1-18, and explain how God was preparing Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt.

6. After God delivered Israel, he gave his people the Law and the tabernacle. How did these elements relate to the covenant that God made with Israel? How did these ordinances prepare the people to enter the land of Canaan?

9. As the covenant lawgiver, the law God gave through Moses was a gift to his people. According to Protestant tradition, explain what is meant by the normative or instructive use of the law, and describe how God's commands were used primarily to guide Israel toward his blessings.

10. God promised to be present with his people. How and where was his presence displayed? What caused God to threaten to remove his presence, and how did Moses respond?