

The Pentateuch

Journal Questions

LESSON
ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE PENTATEUCH



THIRD MILLENNIUM

MINISTRIES

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Journal Questions

1. What are some potential dangers of using modern critical approaches to study Scripture?
2. Why is it important for us to be familiar with the approaches of modern critical scholars?
3. Why must we believe in supernatural events to properly interpret and apply the teachings of the Pentateuch in our lives?
4. What is the value of affirming that God's revelation throughout Scripture is consistently monotheistic? How does this understanding affect your ministry today?
5. There are a variety of names for God found in the Pentateuch. How can this variety allow us to emphasize various aspects of God's character in our preaching and teaching?
6. God displayed himself through supernatural means and miraculous acts in the Pentateuch. What are some ways that God's supernatural activity in the past might give us confidence about God's supernatural promises for our future?
7. How important is it to believe that Moses is essentially the author of the Pentateuch? Explain your answer.
8. The purpose of the Pentateuch was to prepare Israel for faithful service to God in the conquest and settlement of the Promised Land. How can you apply this to your present life and ministry?
9. What are some themes in the Pentateuch that reflect concepts that are important for us to apply today? Give an example of how you might apply one of these themes to your present work and teaching.
10. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?

The Primeval History

Journal Questions

LESSON
ONE

A PERFECT WORLD



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1. In contrast to the other creation stories in Moses' day God's spoken word alone brought order and restrained the chaos. How does the way in which God created cause you to worship him?
2. Moses' primeval history was intended to validate Israel's exodus and conquest by showing that they were in accordance with the order God had established in the early history of the world. In what way does an understanding of the creation story help you understand your life within history?
3. The Israelites failed to recognize God's blessings in the Promised Land instead they thought Egypt was pretty good. In what ways are we tempted to not recognize the blessings of Christ's inauguration and possibly settle for "pretty good"?
4. When Paul spoke in 2 Cor. 5:17 that believers are a new creation he indicated that believers become a part of a new realm, a new world. How does it make you feel that you are not only a new creation but part of a newly created realm?
5. Dr. Pratt mentioned that Christians often disconnect their eternal hope from the creation. In other words we assume we will spend eternity in the spiritual world of heaven. However, the NT teaches that our eternal destiny will be in the new heavens and new earth. How does the NT teaching of a re-created universe affect your view of the world today?
6. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

The Primeval History

Journal Questions

LESSON
TWO

PARADISE LOST AND
FOUND



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Journal Questions

1. In the primeval history Moses recounted how the evil of sin damaged relationships between God and his people, as well as relationships between people. What effects of this can we see in the modern world?
2. For the Israelites, the land of Canaan was a mere shadow of what Eden had originally been. Moses held before the Israelites the vision of what their land could be one day. What vision of the Promised Land should modern believers embrace? Why?
3. Why does God test his people? In what ways has God tested you? Have you been loyal?
4. Moses explained to the Israelites that possessing the land of Canaan would be a foretaste of the blessing of life, but it was conditioned upon their obedience. What foretastes of our future blessings do Christians enjoy in the modern world? Are these blessings also conditional?
5. What hope can modern believers draw from the fact that Christ has begun to reverse the damage caused by Adam and Eve's disobedience?
6. Read James 1:12-15. How does James give perspective regarding trials during the continuation of the kingdom? How should this encourage believers to be faithful to God?
7. Read Revelation 22:12. John looked ahead and saw the new world as a return to the paradise that was lost. How does God's redemptive plan for history give your life purpose and meaning?
8. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

The Primeval History

Journal Questions

LESSON
THREE

A WORLD OF VIOLENCE



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1. Moses contrasted the lives of Cain and Abel. Which character is most like you? Why? What was Moses hoping to accomplish by contrasting various characters?
2. In Genesis 6:3, God reacted to the violence of mankind by saying that he would wait 120 years before judging mankind. What does this tell you about the longsuffering nature of God toward the sinfulness of mankind?
3. Despite the corruption and violence of mankind, a thread of hope can be traced throughout God's relationship with us. What thread of hope is found in the Primeval History. How should this give you hope today?
4. Explain how the pattern of God's deliverance remained the same from the Primeval History, to the contemporary world of the Israelites, to the New Testament. How does God's deliverance in the modern world compare to these earlier stages?
5. How is Christ' atoning work on the cross prefigured in the violence and hope of Genesis 4:1–6:8?
6. Describe the deliverance at the consummation of the kingdom. How does it make you feel that at the consummation of the kingdom our deliverance will be full and final?
7. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

The Primeval History

Journal Questions

LESSON
FOUR

THE RIGHT DIRECTION



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1. The theme of deliverance can be traced through Noah's flood, the Israelite's journey to the Promised Land and the inauguration of the kingdom. In what ways has God delivered you? How the theme of God's deliverance provide hope for you and the world today?
2. Moses wrote these chapters to motivate the Israelites to move forward in battle. How can we apply this same motivation to spiritual warfare? What other battles has God placed before you?
3. How were the people of Babel confused about the ways of God? Give an example of how modern Christians depend on their own efforts and security instead of relying God.
4. In what ways do modern people scoff and doubt Christ's return? How does remembering Noah's flood remind us of Christ's forthcoming cataclysmic intervention?
5. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

Father Abraham

Journal Questions

LESSON
ONE

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM: STRUCTURE AND CONTENT



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Journal Questions

1. As Moses wrote about Abraham he drew attention to God's grace. In what ways does your life's story demonstrate God's grace?
2. Abraham was required to show loyalty through obedience to God in many ways. What place does loyalty have in your understanding of God's relationships with his people?
3. In what ways are you able to identify with Abraham? Which episode in Moses' account seems closest to your own experience as a follower of Christ? How does Abraham's story offer encouragement to you?
4. Why do you think Moses desired that the Israelites understand that their blessings had a purpose?
5. In what ways have you and your church community been a blessing to others?
6. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

Father Abraham

Journal Questions

LESSON
TWO

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM: ORIGINAL MEANING



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Journal Questions

1. The motif of divine grace reminded the Israelites that they were recipients of God's mercy. How have you benefited from God's divine grace?
2. Although God had shown mercy to the Israelites, the status of each person in each generation depended on how they responded to the commands of God. What is the significance or meaning of this teaching for followers of Christ today?
3. The events in Abraham's life were told to impart a vision for God's plan to use Israel to spread his kingdom to the entire world. What does it look like for the kingdom to spread to the entire world in our day? How should our plans be shaped by the experiences of Abraham and other biblical people of faith?
4. How do the stories of Abraham's interactions with other people provide a model for followers of Christ in the modern world?
5. Like Abraham's failure with Hagar, at times we justify our own plans instead of following God's plan. In what situations are you tempted to do this?
6. How is Abraham's legacy the legacy of Christians today?
7. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

Father Abraham

Journal Questions

LESSON
THREE

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM: MODERN APPLICATION



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Journal Questions

1. Why is it important for believers that Christ fulfills the major themes in Abraham's life?
2. What are some practical modern implications of the ethnic diversity of Abraham's seed in Moses' day?
3. Why is it important to recognize that the church contains both believers and unbelievers? How does this affect the way you should view and minister in the church?
4. What basic church doctrines might be influenced by our understanding of the spiritual diversity of the church?
5. Why does God expect loyalty from you? How can you exhibit loyalty to God in your life?
6. In what ways do you enjoy the foretastes of blessings that God has given to you as his child?
7. How can we teach, proclaim and exhibit the gospel in ways that bless others? What types of things might prevent Christians from proclaiming the gospel with this result?
8. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

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LESSON
NINE

THE PATRIARCH JACOB



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1. We learn in Genesis 25:23 that God showed grace to Jacob even before he was born. How does this verse influence your understanding of God? How might it also impact our relationships with unbelievers?
2. When Jacob submitted to God at Jabbok he was given the new name Israel. How is this name change similar to what happens to us at conversion? Did you experience something similar after submitting your life to God?
3. Jacob received grace from God despite his own failings. What are some examples of times when you received grace despite your own failings? How might your experiences encourage those in your area of ministry?
4. How might God's grace despite your failings help you be compassionate towards those in your churches that have failed in various ways?
5. Moses emphasized that God fulfilled his promises to Jacob and all of Israel. What promises does God give the church today, and how might these stories reinforce your hope that God will continue to be faithful in our day?
6. What is the final "Promised Land" for Christ's church? What assurances do we have that we will one day inherit this land?
7. How does it humble and encourage you to recall that Jesus obeyed where you sinned, and that he has imputed his perfect righteousness to you?
8. In the continuation of the kingdom, we are called to lives of obedience. In what areas of your life do you find yourself most challenged to obey God? What are some areas where the people you serve experience this challenge, and how can you best encourage them?
9. Reflect on some specific blessings that God has granted you. How have these blessings helped you face challenges in your life?
10. What are some practical ways you and your congregation can extend God's blessings to those who do not yet follow Jesus?
11. How should the hope of Jesus' return and the consummation of his kingdom impact your preaching and teaching today?
12. Take a moment to read 1 John 3:1-3. In what ways will we be like Jesus? And how can you and your congregation prepare for this day in the present time?
13. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?

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Journal Questions

LESSON
TEN

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS



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1. Joseph suffered many injustices, yet he remained obedient to God and was eventually rewarded for his faithfulness. How might his example encourage you to stay faithful to God in the midst of difficult circumstances?
2. God gave Joseph and his brothers grace many times throughout this story, though sometimes it may not have seemed this way to them. How does this help you to recognize God's grace and benevolence in your own life, even in the midst of life's challenges?
3. Like Moses' original audience, those to whom we minister need to remain loyal to God in all circumstances. How can you effectively encourage those in your church or ministry to remain faithful to God when sometimes our culture seems to be growing more hostile to Christianity?
4. At his return, Christ will provide his people with eternal blessings, just as he has promised in his Word. How might this promise of future blessings encourage and strengthen you in your present circumstances?
5. Christians are not only granted blessings, but we are also called to extend God's blessings to others. What are some areas of need in the communities around you? What are some ways that you and your church might extend God's blessings to those both inside and outside the community of believers?
6. We are united to all believers in all cultures as one people in the body of Christ. How should this impact the way we perceive our brothers and sisters in Christ — especially those who seem to be very different from us? How can we maintain unity with them?
7. The Joseph stories teach us that God desires diversity among his people. How has God gifted you in ways that are distinct from the believers around you? What gifts has he given others that he has not given you? How might this diversity of gifts cause you to see your need of others?
8. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?

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LESSON
ELEVEN

AN OVERVIEW OF EXODUS



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Journal Questions

1. What relevance does God's covenant with Moses have for your life and ministry today?
2. Just as God fulfilled his promise to deliver the Israelites, he has fulfilled his promise to deliver us through Jesus' first coming. How does this encourage you while you are living in the continuation of the kingdom, yet still looking ahead to the final consummation?
3. God will fully defeat his enemies when Jesus returns in judgment. But until that time, how should we respond to injustice? How should we treat our enemies?
4. When Jesus returns, the time for the reconciliation of sinners to God will end. What impact should this have on the way we evangelize?
5. We learn in Exodus that God's laws are his gracious gift to his people. Is it easy or difficult for you to consider God's laws as gracious blessings? Explain your answer.
6. In the new heavens and new earth, we will fully obey God's laws. What hope can you take from this, and what hope can you provide those to whom you minister?
7. God has promised to be present with his people always. Have there been times in your life that you have powerfully experienced the presence of God through his Spirit? If so, explain.
8. We all experience times when it can be difficult to feel God's presence. How might Exodus provide encouragement for you in these low times? How can you minister to others who are experiencing similar difficulties?
9. In the new heavens and new earth, we will experience the fullness of God's presence for all eternity. What do you think this will be like? What experiences in the new heavens and new earth do you look forward to the most?
10. What is the most significant thing you learned in this lesson?