

From Paradise to the Promised Land

Taken from Old Testament Survey material, by R Ayliffe

Principles of Bible Study

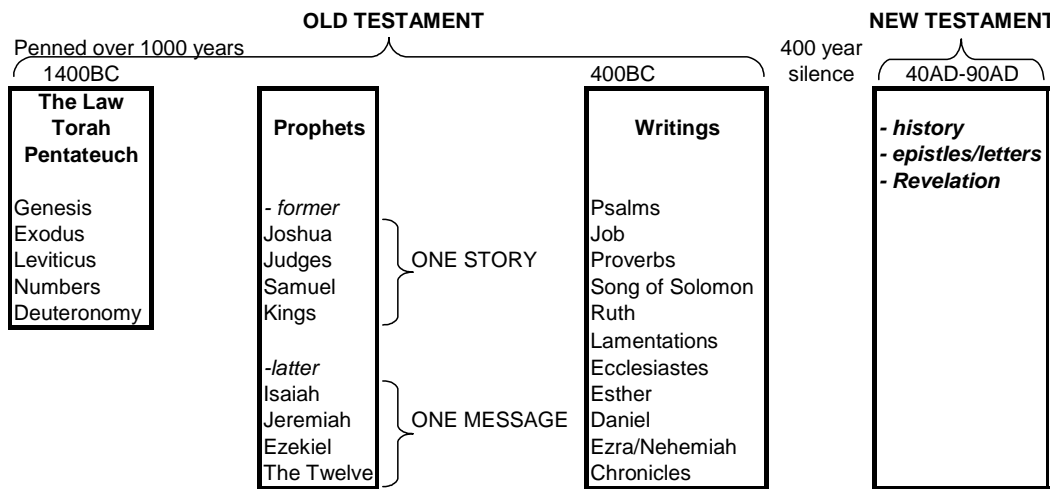
1. Observation

- a. Know the content
- b. Understand the Purpose for the book; and Major Themes in the book

2. Interpretation (Determine the meaning)

- a. Historical: Events, Chronology, Geography, Culture
- b. Grammatical

3. Application (Relating the meaning to Present Life)



The Torah

1. Introduction to the Torah

The Torah is the Law (Jewish Torah= “Law”).

This is the Law of Who God is, who man is, and their relationship, and how the relationship between them is sustained. Sounds pretty important, doesn’t it! What could be more important than that? This is guidance for life.

Many designations (names) in the Bible. Prophets, Psalmists, Characters refer to the Law in various ways:

- The Law - Matt 12:5
- The Book of the Law - Josh 1:8
- The Book of the Law of Moses – 2 Ki 14:6
- The Book of Moses – Ezra 6:18
- The Law of Moses – Dan 9:11
- The Law of the Lord – Luke 2:23
- The Law of God – Neh 10:28
- The Book of the Law of God – Josh 24:26
- The Book of the Law of the Lord – 2 Chron 17:9

“Moses” and “Law” are the common denominators. This is the Law, given by God, penned by Moses.

2. The Themes

1. God

Introduced to God, and His character.

Q: How would you describe God as revealed in the 1st 5 books?

- Creator (Gen 1-2)
- Powerful, Omnipotent One (Gen 6-9, Ex 7-11)
- Faithful One (Lev 26:42, Gen 8:1, Ex 2:24)

2. Covenant

We see many covenants established in the Torah.

Q: Which covenants can you remember?

- Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Priestly
(p.s. Abrahamic unconditional, Mosaic conditional)
- The Law of Moses (Sinai) was the vehicle to receive the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant, but it was powerless due to sin. Jesus came to fulfil the Mosaic Law – Gal 3

3. Sin

If the Torah reveals who God is and who man is, and how man relates to God, then Sin will be (and definitely is) a major theme.

What major failures of mankind can you think of in the Torah?

- Fall, Flood, Babel, Golden Calf, Nadab and Abihu, Refusal to enter Canaan (Num 14), Moses and the rock (Num 20)

4. Election

Q: Who was elected?

Were it not for God’s electing Abraham and Israel, there would be no salvation.

Q: What criteria did God use to elect them?

- Chosen Abraham, a pagan idol worshiper (Josh 24:2)– Gen 11-12
- Chosen People, – Deut 7 (minor), Rom 9:29 (stiff necked), by love

5. Exodus

6. Law

7. Land

Plays a big role in Israel’s history and purpose. God promised them the land of Canaan. He fulfilled His promise, despite their waywardness.

Q: Is God’s promise for them to inherit the land still valid today?

- What we DO know for sure, is that even Abraham and the faithful offspring, knew that they had not fully received the promises yet, confessing to be strangers and pilgrims on this earth, looking for a Heavenly homeland. (Heb 11:8-10, 13-16)

8. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), Moses

3. The Importance of the Torah

1. It is the Foundation of Spiritual Insight

Deu 31:9-13

(9) Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

(10) And Moses commanded them, "At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths,

(11) when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

(12) Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, and be careful to do [observe] all the words of this law,

(13) and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

Joshua 1:7

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.

Psalms 1:1-3

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

- The Torah is the required object of instruction.
- It makes men a tree by streams of water

The account of Ezra, Nehemiah 8:1-12. A Biblical Revival.

- The Torah is the departure point for the rest of scripture.

It is feasible to say that the Torah is the Scripture, and the rest is Inspired Commentary on that scripture. (e.g. Romans, 2:17 use of the law, 3:19 purpose of the law, 4:3 salvation in the law, Rom 9:6ff children of Abraham, God's promise)

- The other 2 sections of the OT (Prophets and Writings) refer back to the Law as they open: Joshua 1:8 – The Law applied to Nation of Israel, Psalm 1:2 – The Law applied to the individual. Nationally, and privately, the Law is Foundational.
- "Meditate", "Meditate"

2. It Points to Christ

Emmaus Road, and to disciples: Luke 24:27,44
Gospel first proclaimed in Genesis 3:15, and fulfilled in Christ

4. Purpose of the Torah: Faith and Failure

The importance of Faith toward God seen before Sinai (Abraham) and the failure of Israel under the Mosaic covenant because of a lack of faith, pointing to a future King and a new Covenant

5. Application

One cannot fully understand and appreciate Jesus Christ without understanding God's revelation in the Pentateuch. In the first 5 books, we see ourselves, and God reaching down to us. We see the same humanity, with the same problem, and the same resistance to God.

We understand the nature of sin and salvation.

We learn the righteousness, justice, goodness and faithfulness of God.

It is indispensable to our knowledge of Him, and should be taught, as God instructs us, to all who can understand. There is a reason why Israel was commanded over and over to be mindful of and meditate on the Law.

All of this makes the revelation of Jesus Christ our Lord so much more enthralling. Jesus himself understood and explained all things after His resurrection through these things, and showed that it all points to Him!

Thought Provoker:

Q: Is the Torah, (which is the Law) still relevant if Jesus Christ has fulfilled it?

- Yes. It reveals the righteousness of God. Although it doesn't impart righteousness to us, and never can, because of our sin... it is still good, and identifies sin for what it is.

Rom 7:7-12

(7) What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

(8) But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.

(9) I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died.

(10) The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.

(11) For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

(12) So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Gal 3:24 (KJV)

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.