

The Torah:

Genesis–Deuteronomy

(a.k.a. Law, Pentateuch)

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Theme: The Pentateuch is about the beginning of God’s *plan* to bless all *peoples* by bringing them back into His *presence* for His *praise* through His *Promised One* starting with His chosen *people*, Israel. (Major emphasis: the fulfillment of God’s promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.)

Outline¹

A. Introduction (Genesis): “blessing” (x88), covenant, Promised Land

1. Cosmic Beginnings (Genesis 1-11):
 - a. Creation, Fall, 10 Generations from Adam to Noah (Genesis 1-6a)
 - b. Flood, Fall, 10 Generations from Shem to Abram (Genesis 6b-11)
2. Covenant Blessings (Genesis 12-50):
 - a. Abraham (Genesis 12-25a)
 - b. Jacob (Genesis 25b-36)
 - c. Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

B. Pre-Sinai Narrative: Deliverance + Desert (Exodus 1-18)

1. Deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 1-13a): Moses, 10 Plagues, Passover
2. Disaster in the Desert (Exodus 13b-18): Reed Sea, Rebellion x3

C. Law at Sinai (Exodus 19-Numbers 10a)

*Structural, Theological Center of the Torah

1. Covenant (Exodus 19-24): Ten Commandments, Code of Conduct
2. Tabernacle* (Exodus 25-40)
 - a. Tabernacle Instruction (Exodus 25-31) // Creation
 - b. Tabernacle Destruction: Golden Calf (Exodus 32-34) // Fall
 - a’. Tabernacle Construction (Exodus 35-40) // New Creation
3. Worship/Holiness (Leviticus-Numbers 10a):
 - a. Sacrifices (Leviticus 1-7)
 - b. Priesthood (Leviticus 8-10)
 - c. Uncleaness (Leviticus 11-15)
 - d. Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)
 - e. Holiness (Leviticus 17-27): “Be holy, for I am holy”
 - f. Preparations for Entering the Land (Numbers 1-10a)

B’. Post-Sinai Narrative: Desert + Destiny (Num 10b-36)

1. Disaster in the Desert: Generation #1 (Numbers 10b-25): Rebellion x8
2. Destined for the Promised Land: Generation #2 (Numbers 26-36)

A’. Conclusion (Deuteronomy): “blessing” (x51), covenant, Promised Land

1. Past: What God Accomplished (Deuteronomy 1:1-4:43)
2. Present: What God Requires (Deuteronomy 4:44-26:19)
3. Future: What God Promises (Deuteronomy 27:1-34:12)

The Torah points beyond itself...and ultimately to Christ, who said He came “not to abolish the Torah...but to fulfill [it]” (Matthew 5:17).



Fulfillment in Christ

- New Adam (Rom. 5; Luke 3-4)
- Crushes Serpent (Gen. 3:15//Rom. 16:20)
- “Seed”/“offspring” in whom All Nations are Blessed (Mt. 1; Gal. 3:16)
- New Melchizedek (Gen. 14// Heb. 5-7)
- New “Beloved Son” Sacrificed (Gen. 22//Mt. 3:17; Rom. 8:32)
- New Joseph Sold for Silver, Raised Up (Gen. 37//Mk. 12:7; Mt. 26:15)
- Lion of Tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:9-12//Rev. 5:5)
- New Passover Lamb (Mk. 14:12; 1 Cor. 5:7)
- New Exodus (Lk. 9:31)
- New Israel Tempted in the Desert (Mt. 4)
- New Tabernacle: God Made Flesh (John 1:14)
- Perfect Sacrifice (Heb. 9; 10; 13)
- Perfect High Priest (Heb. 4-5; 8-10)
- Atones for Sin (Day of Atonement—Lev. 16//Heb. 13:11-12)
- Obeyes Law Perfectly (Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 5:21)
- Lifted up like the Serpent in the Desert (Num. 21//John 3:14)
- New Moses/Mediator (Deut. 18:15-19//Acts 3:22-23)
- New Covenant in His Blood (Exod. 24:8//Mk. 14:24; Heb. 8)
- Gives Us a New Heart (Deut. 29:4; Heb. 9:10)

The New Testament teaches that Christ fulfilled every aspect of the Torah (see above).

¹ Some elements from the following outline are drawn from V. J. Steiner, “Literary Structure of the Pentateuch,” *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch* (2003), 544-56.