

## PENTATEUCH

Course Requirements–Fall 2023

Tuesdays from September 5 through December 12

TIME SLOT: Thursdays, 2:00 till 4:40

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To survey the Pentateuch,
  - a. Tracing its various themes;
  - b. Becoming familiar with the religious and cultural setting of Moses' message; and
  - c. examining its unified message found particularly in God's covenant promises;
2. To establish the Pentateuch's relation to and place of importance within the canon;
3. To introduce the history of the study of the Pentateuch and interact with certain higher critical theories; and
4. Especially to survey the Pentateuch chapter by chapter to draw out its theological emphases and show the literary integrity of the five books of Moses.

### COURSE OUTCOMES

1. The student will learn seminal theological themes that are introduced in the Pentateuch and developed throughout the Scriptures;
2. The student will learn rationalist understandings of the origins of the Pentateuch along with internal arguments against the JEDP theory that are supported by covenant treaty discoveries;
3. The student will master
  - a. Popular interpretations of God's creation work with an emphasis on the "normal day" approach;
  - b. Arguments for a universal flood;
  - c. Arguments for the historicity of the exodus and Sinai narrative
  - d. The major theme, key text, and general outline of each book of the Pentateuch

### REQUIRED READINGS

Main Text     DUE at the Final Exam

1) Victor Hamilton, *A Handbook to the Pentateuch* (Revised)

**OR** 2) John Sailhamer, *The Pentateuch as Narrative*

### Supplemental Texts

**#1**     DUE at first Exam

Sailhamer, "Introduction" to his commentary on Genesis in the *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, pp. 3-14 **OR** the following is recommended: Sailhamer, *Pentateuch as Narrative*, pp. 32-44

**#2**     DUE at the second Exam

O.P. Robertson. *The Christ of the Covenants*, pp. 1-218

**#3:**     DUE at Final Exam

G. Archer. *A Survey of OT Introduction*, chpts. 6-9

Genesis through Deuteronomy in a version you do not frequent.  
Time guidelines in schedule.

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

You will get to do a brief INVESTIGATION on each of the five books of the law. This may be an exposition of a passage (scholarly, not homiletic...) that has caught your interest, a thematic study, an issue of interest, or a comparative word study focusing mainly on how the word (or phrase) is used within that particular book (or by Moses in general). Hamilton gives some cogent examples of word studies.

Plan on about two pages of material (double-spaced), either in written or outline form. This is not a literary production but a research project, so be sure to get right to the point. Include a list of works cited (check 2-3 commentaries besides internet resources and/or general reference works). Time permitting, you will be able to present your findings during a class session.

DEADLINES generally are the same as for the completion of reading each Bible book.

## MEMORIZATION

**Genesis** 50:20

**Leviticus** 11:45; or 19:17,18

**Exodus:** Short form of 10 Commandments

**Numbers** 6:24-26

**Deuteronomy** 10:12,13

## GRADING

Exams - 55%

Research Reports - 15%

Reading - 20%

Memorization - 5%

Attendance - 5%

## SCHEDULE

9/5	Introduction
9/12	Genesis 1-5
9/19	NO CLASS: PRESBYTERY TRAVEL
9/26	Genesis 12-36; Genesis memory recitation
10/3	Genesis 37-50; read Genesis; Genesis report
10/10	Exodus Intro; 1-10; Exodus memory recitation; Return <b>Exam I</b> over Genesis
10/17	Exodus 11-24; read Exodus
10/24	Exodus 32-40; Exodus report
10/31	Leviticus 1-15; Leviticus memory recitation
11/7	Leviticus 16-27; read Leviticus; Leviticus report; return <b>Exam II</b> over Exodus
11/14	Numbers 1-19; Numbers memory recitation
11/21	Numbers 20-36; read Numbers; Numbers report
11/28	Deuteronomy 1-12; Deuteronomy memory recitation
12/3	Deuteronomy 13-34; read Deuteronomy; Deuteronomy report
12/12	Final Exam