

THE PENTATEUCH

What is Pentateuch?

Penta means *five*. Therefore *pentagon* refers to a shape of five sides and *Pentateuch* refers to a collection of 5 scrolls:



Who is the main human author?

Look up these verses: Exodus 17:14, 24:4; Deuteronomy 31:9; Joshua 1:7-8; John 5:46-47; Romans 10:5 (referring to Leviticus 18:5) and you will see, without any doubt, that the main human author is Moses.

When did he write it?

Between his birth and his death;

Between the time he was 80 years old (when he was called to lead Israel out of Egypt) and 120 years old when he died;

Most likely, started writing after the Exodus, and added and completed most of it by the time he was near 120 years old.

What was his purpose in writing it?

He was mainly writing to the second generation of the Israelites who came out of Egypt. He is telling them that this is the way to live your life in the coming days, this is the way to worship God. So we find in these 5 scrolls instructions on how to draw near to God in worship, what sacrifices to offer and how to offer them, how they should order their lives, treat their neighbours, deal with slaves, fight wars, etc.

BUT why should we do it? Why should we obey? Why should we go this way?

Moses gives them all those instructions and commands and principles in the context of a story!

Genesis --- how God brought this world into being and chose Abraham.

Exodus – how you, descendants of Abraham was suffering in Egypt and how God rescued you and formed you into a people. NOTE: Only from Chapter 20 onwards do we find laws and commands.

Leviticus: The laws and commands continue.

Numbers: Laws and commands interspersed with history/story.

Deuteronomy: Now you are here, why you are here, what lies ahead of you; renew the covenant.

There is a story, a relationship, between God and you. He loved you, chose you, provided for you and protected you. Now, in this relationship, this is how you should respond to God in love and gratitude!

What is the ONE lesson we can learn?

Commands and principles have no “grip” without the story and relationship!!

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