The Pentateuch

Essay Questions

LESSON ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE PENTATEUCH



1. Explain some significant presuppositions that grew out of the Enlightenment and influenced modern critical outlooks on the Pentateuch.

2. List the modern critical approaches to the Pentateuch's authorship and describe the main evidences critical scholars have used to support their views.

3.	What are five major interpretive strategies that critical scholars have followed in their
	approach to the Pentateuch? Describe the origin, focus and conclusions of each
	strategy.

4. Summarize some evangelical presuppositions that contrast with critical approaches to the Pentateuch.

5.	How have evangelicals confirmed the longstanding Jewish and Christian belief that
	the Pentateuch came from Moses?

6. What are three main interpretative strategies evangelicals have followed in regard to the Pentateuch? Explore the benefits and drawbacks of each strategy.

The Primeval History

Essay Questions

LESSON ONE

A PERFECT WORLD



1. In what two ways is Gen. 1:1-2:3 inspired? Explain.

2. Explain the background of the chapters in terms of availability and interaction.

3. Why did Moses write these chapters?

4. Summarize the basic overview of Gen. 1:1-2:3?

5	What is the literary	y structure of the Dark Chaotic World in Gen. 1	.1-29
J.	What is the interact	y structure of the Dark Chaotic world in Och. 1	. 1 - 4 :

6. What is the literary structure of the Ideal World in Gen. 2:1-3?

8.	How do these literary structures help us understand Moses' purpose for writing?

What is the literary structure of the Six Days of Ordering in Gen. 1:3-31?

7.

9.	What is the origin	al meaning of the	Dark Chaotic World?
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10. What is the original meaning of the Ideal World?

11. What is the original meaning of the Six Days of Orderin

12. Explain how the NT writers related the creation story to the inauguration of the kingdom.

13.	Explain how the NT writers related the creation story to the continuation of the
	kingdom.

14. Explain how the NT writers related the creation story to the consummation of the kingdom.

The Primeval History

Essay Questions

LESSON TWO

PARADISE LOST AND FOUND



1. Give an overview of the major sections of Genesis 2:4–3:24.

2. Explain the significant symmetries among the major sections of this passage.

3.	How did Moses identify the Garden of Eden and why did he explain the holiness of the Garden?
4.	Explain how Moses described the motif of loyalty in both Eden and Canaan.

Explain the consequences of Adam and Eve's disloyalty

6. Explain how the primeval events of Genesis 2–3 connected with the lives of the Israelites in Moses' day.

7.	How do Paul and Matthew teach that salvation in Christ inaugurates a return to
	paradise?

8. According to Paul and James, how does Moses' account of Adam and Eve in the Garden relate to the continuation of the kingdom?

9. According to the New Testament, how does the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden apply to the consummation of the kingdom?

The Primeval History

Essay Questions

LESSON THREE

A WORLD OF VIOLENCE



1. How do the narratives and genealogies of Genesis 4:1–5:32 correspond to one another?

2. Describe the threatening events that Moses recorded in Genesis 6:1-8. How did God react to these events?

3. What does the literary structure of Genesis 4:1–6:8 reveal about Moses' purpose in writing?

4. What connections did Moses draw between violence and hope in the primeval history and in his contemporary world?

5.	How did Moses want the Israelites who followed him to respond to the
	connections between their world and the primeval world?

6. Explain two ways in which the inauguration of the kingdom recalls the world of violence in the primeval history.

7.	Describe two ways the New Testament applies this portion of the primeval history to the continuation of the kingdom.

8. Describe two ways the New Testament applies this portion of the primeval history to the consummation of the kingdom.

The Primeval History

Essay Questions

LESSON FOUR

THE RIGHT DIRECTION



1. Summarize the five-step drama of the Flood of Deliverance.

2. How do the sections about the Sons of Noah and the Defeat of Babel characterize the patterns of the New Order after the flood?

3. Describe the connections between the flood of Noah's day and the experience of Israel in Moses' day. What implications did Moses intend his audience to draw from these connections?

4. What did Moses want his audience to learn from the account of Noah's sons in Genesis 9:18–10:32?

5. How did the inauguration of the kingdom correspond to the themes Moses emphasized in Genesis 6:9–11:9?

6. How does the continuation of the kingdom correspond to the themes Moses emphasized in Genesis 6:9–11:9?

7. How will the consummation of the kingdom correspond to the themes Moses emphasized in Genesis 6:9–11:9?

8. Summarize the modern application of Genesis 6:9–11:9 in light of the inauguration, continuation and consummation of the kingdom.

Father Abraham

Essay Questions

LESSON ONE

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM: STRUCTURE AND CONTENT



1. What are the names this lesson gives to the three main sections of Genesis? What does each section contain?

2. Describe the structure of the stories about Abraham's life in Genesis 11:10–25:18. Include the basic units and arrangement of his life.

3.	Why did Moses craft his literary portrait of Israel's first patriarch in this way?
4.	Describe the structure of Genesis 12:1-3. Why is this structure significant?

6.	What are some similarities between the Israelites who lived in Moses' day and modern Christians?

What four main themes of Abraham's life are introduced in Genesis 12:1-3?

5.

Father Abraham

Essay Questions

LESSON TWO

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM: ORIGINAL MEANING



1. Describe the two "worlds" that Moses kept in mind as he wrote for the Israelites.

2. Describe the three types of connections Moses used to relate his accounts to the Israelite's experiences?

3.	Summarize each major step of Abraham's life and how it related to Moses'
	original audience.

4. How does recognition of Moses' authorship of Genesis provide insight into the meaning of these accounts of Abraham's life?

5.	How does the lesson summarize the impact of Abraham's story on its original
	audience?

6. What four main themes did Moses express when writing about Abraham? How did these relate to his original audience?

7. Briefly summarize the five main steps of Abraham's life, and some of their main implications for the original audience.

Father Abraham

Essay Questions

LESSON THREE

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM: MODERN APPLICATION



1. How can we say that Christ is the singular seed of Abraham?

2. Describe the four major themes that connect the stories about Abraham to Jesus.

4.	How can believers today apply the four major themes that connect Abraham and Jesus?

In what four ways are Israel and the church alike as the seed of Abraham?

3.

The Pentateuch

Essay Questions

LESSON NINE

THE PATRIARCH JACOB



1. How does Moses tell us the struggle between Jacob and Esau began in Genesis 25:19-34?

2. What do the reports of Jacob's lineage, Isaac's death, and Esau's lineage in Genesis 35:16-37:1 tell us about the end of the struggle between Jacob and Esau?

3.	Describe Isaac's interactions with the Philistines. What did Isaac's peace with the
	Philistines mean for Moses' original audience?

4. Why did Jacob's encounter with the Canaanites in Genesis 33:18–35:15 turn into conflict? How did Jacob respond to the situation?

5. Describe the antagonism between Jacob and Esau that caused their hostile separation

6. What events led to the peaceful separation between the brothers in Genesis 32:1–33:17?

7.	What occurred during Jacob's time with Laban in Genesis 29:1–31:55? Why is this episode pivotal in Moses' account of Jacob's life?
8.	How was God's grace to Jacob particularly relevant for Moses's original audience?

9.	In what ways did Moses use Jacob's life to inspire his audience to show loyalty to God?			
10.	What evidence do we see in Scripture that God blessed Jacob both despite his disobedience and in response to his obedience?			

11. What was God's special commission to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3, and how is this commission reflected in the story of Jacob?

The Pentateuch

Essay Questions

LESSON TEN

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS



1. How did Joseph contribute to the disharmony between the brothers? How did his brothers respond to his behavior?

2. Moses highlighted the moral paths of Judah and Joseph after Joseph was sold into slavery. How did Joseph and Judah's lives contrast during Joseph's threatening rule in Egypt?

3. The reconciliation between the brothers developed over three highly dramatic journeys to Egypt by Joseph's brothers. List and describe the major events that occurred during each journey.

4. How did Joseph's benevolent rule in Egypt benefit the people of Egypt? How did it benefit his own family?

5. The end of the story of Joseph and his brothers focuses on the harmony among the patriarchs. How did Jacob's blessings to his sons contribute to this harmony? How did Joseph's final interactions with his brothers contribute to the patriarchal harmony?

6. What four emphases does the story of Joseph share with the records of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Give some examples of how we see these emphases in Joseph's story.

7. In his narrative of Joseph and his brothers, Moses included the special emphases of national unity and national diversity. How did Moses expect these themes to impact his original audience?

The Pentateuch

Essay Questions

LESSON ELEVEN

AN OVERVIEW OF EXODUS



1. What do evangelicals mean when they say that Moses was the "fundamental" or "essential" author of the book of Exodus?

2. What scriptural evidence leads us to believe that Moses completed the book of Exodus while Israel was encamped on the border of the Promised Land?

3. What was the purpose of the book of Exodus? What impact would Exodus have had on Moses' original audience?

4. The fact that New Testament authors often referred to the book of Exodus reminds us that the book is relevant for followers of Christ. How does the book of Exodus provide guidance for our lives today?

5. List and describe the major events of Moses' early life recorded in Exodus 1-18, and explain how God was preparing Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt.

6. After God delivered Israel, he gave his people the Law and the tabernacle. How did these elements relate to the covenant that God made with Israel? How did these ordinances prepare the people to enter the land of Canaan?

7.	God's identified himself to Israel by a covenant name. Explain how the various forms
	of his name express the nature of his covenant with the Israelites.

8. As Israel's victorious warrior, God fought for his people throughout their deliverance. Describe God's miraculous judgments while they were still slaves in Egypt. Explain how he continued to fight for them in their march to freedom.

9. As the covenant lawgiver, the law God gave through Moses was a gift to his people. According to Protestant tradition, explain what is meant by the normative or instructive use of the law, and describe how God's commands were used primarily to guide Israel toward his blessings.

10. God promised to be present with his people. How and where was his presence displayed? What caused God to threaten to remove his presence, and how did Moses respond?