

# The Pentateuch

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Menucha Bible School, 2008

# The Pentateuch

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Foundations

# Names

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## □ **Penta – teuch**

- Five scrolls/volumes

## □ **Torah**

- Law, teaching (Law / Prophets / Writings)

## □ **The books of Moses**

- Did Moses write it all?
  - Earlier sources? Later editing?
  - The Mosaic era
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# The Five Parts

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- **Genesis** generations, origins (2:4; 5:1)
    - 'In the beginning...' (cf Jn 1:1)
  - **Exodus** way out, exit
    - '(These are the) names...'
  - **Leviticus** priests (levites); 'joined'
    - 'And God called...' (God speaks @ beg and end)
  - **Numbers** arithmoi, census (ch. 1-4, 26)
    - 'In the wilderness...'
  - **Deuteronomy** second Law (17:18 'copy')
    - '(These are the) words / matters...'
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# A Pattern?

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Genesis (13+58=71)	A
Exodus (61)	B
Sinai arrival (Ex 19)	C
Leviticus (44)	D
<b>Day of Atonement</b>	<b>E</b>
Leviticus	D
Sinai departure (Num 10)	C
Numbers (62)	B
Deuteronomy (52)	A

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# The Pentateuch

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The Book of Genesis

# Generations

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<input type="checkbox"/>	2:4	Heavens & earth	N
<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1	Adam	G
<input type="checkbox"/>	6:9	Noah	N
<input type="checkbox"/>	10:1	Sons of Noah	G
<input type="checkbox"/>	11:10	Shem	G
<input type="checkbox"/>	11:27	Terah	G/N
<input type="checkbox"/>	25:12	Ishmael	G
<input type="checkbox"/>	25:19	Isaac	N
<input type="checkbox"/>	36:1	Esau	G
<input type="checkbox"/>	37:2	Jacob	N

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# Structure and Shape

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- International origins (1-11)
    - Double genealogy (Shem, Terah)
  - Abraham (12-25)
    - Double genealogy (Ishmael, Isaac)
  - Jacob (26-36)
    - Double genealogy (Esau, Jacob)
  - Joseph (37-50)
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# Isaac: a Repetitive Sort of Man

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26:1	Famine	12:10
26:2-5	Blessing	12:1-3;22:15-18
26:6-11	'She is my sister'	12:10+; 20:1-18
26:12-14	Wealth	13:2,6
26:15-22	Altar to God	21:25
26:23-25	Well disputes	12:7-8
26:26-31	Covt with Philistines	21:25-32
26:32-33	Beersheba named	21:31

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# What Do God and Men Achieve?

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## **God**

- Makes earth / man
- Covers sin
- Judges & recreates
- Promises / covt
- Sends messages / dreams / angels
- Provides for Ishmael/Esau
- Keeps people safe
- Gives children
- Maes the rules & tests
- Has a family

## **Man**

- Sin / fall (Eden, Cain, Lamech, Babel, intermarriage, cheats the birthright)
  - Leaves things behind
  - Faith about seed/heir
  - Faith to sacrifice son
  - Listens to God
  - Builds altars
  - Circumcises sons
  - Becomes prosperous and powerful
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# The Unfolding Identity of God

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- God (1:1)
  - Lord God (2:4)
  - Lord (4:1)
  - Most High God (14:18)
  - He Who lives and sees (16:14)
  - Almighty God (17:1)
  - Everlasting God (21:33)
  - Lord God of Abraham (24:12), etc
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# Genesis 1-11: Fall & Effect

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	Divine Speech	Punishment
Fall 3:6	3:14-19	3:22-24
Cain 4:8	4:11-12	4:16
Marriage 6:2	6:3	6:3
Flood 6:5,11+	6:7,13-21	7:6-24
Babel 11:4	11:6+	11:8

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# Genesis 1-11: Flood Symmetry

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7 days waiting for flood (7:4)

7 days waiting for flood (7:10)

40 days of flood (7:17)

150 days water triumph (7:24)

**???? 8:1 ????**

150 days water waning (8:3)

40 days of waiting (8:6)

7 days waiting for flood to recede (8:10)

7 days waiting for flood to recede (8:12)

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# Genesis 12-50: The Promises

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## **To Abraham**

- ❑ 12:1-3,7
- ❑ 13:14-17
- ❑ 15:4-21
- ❑ (16:11)
- ❑ 17:1-8
- ❑ 18:10,14
- ❑ (21:12-13)
- ❑ 22:16-18

## **To Isaac**

- ❑ 26:2-5

## **To Jacob**

- ❑ 28:13-15
  - ❑ 35:10-12
  - ❑ 46:3-4
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# Genesis 12-50: Repetitions

	Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
Leave home	<b>X</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Barren wife	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
Wife in danger	<b>XX</b>	<b>X</b>		
Sibling rivalry	<b>?</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Dream	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Promises	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	



# Genesis 12-50: Importance of Faith

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- ❑ Would **Abraham** be faithful? (12:1; 22:2)
  - ❑ Would the **land** be given? (12:1,6,10)
    - Cf 23:17-20; 33:19; 35:12; 36:43)
  - ❑ Would the **wife** survive?
  - ❑ Would the **child** be born?
    - Cf childbirth in 1-11 (chs 5,10,11)
    - Children of promise are not 'begotten'
  - ❑ Would the **child** survive his brothers?
  - ❑ **Reversal** of normal law (firstborn, cf 1-11)
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# The Pentateuch

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## The Book of Exodus

# Structure and Shape

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□ 1-15	Exodus	15chps
□ 15-24	Sinai	9chps
□ 25-40	Tabernacle	15chps

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# The Three-Stage Plan

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1. Redemption out of Egypt
  2. Covenant relationship (God's terms; our response; creation of a nation)
  3. A meeting place; God dwells with us
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# Pattern in the Plagues

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Introductory Signs (7:8-13)

A River to blood (7:14-25)

B Frogs (7:25-8:15)

C Lice (8:16-19)

A Swarm (8:20-32)

B Cattle death (9:1-7)

C Boils (9:8-12)

A Hail (9:13-35)

B Locusts (10:1-20)

C Darkness (10:21-29)

The Final Plague (ch 11)

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**A** M meets P early by river; done by A

**B** M goes to P in palace

**C** Sudden; unannounced; no warning; done by M

# Lessons from the Exodus

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- Israel's cry initiates God's action
  - God prepares a son as a saviour
  - Why so many plagues?
    - Sin is sinful (no compromise); victory not won easily; battle – don't serve sin!
  - Egypt destroyed
    - Distinction - creation – and God said – darkness – hardening of heart – judgment
  - The passover, firstborn & baptism
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# Identity

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- The identity of Israel; failings
  - 5:15-16; 13:17; 14:11-12
- The identity of Moses
  - 2:5-10; 3:11; 4:15-17; 7:1; 33:17
- The identity of Pharaoh
  - 1:8-14; 5:1-2,17-18
- The identity of God
  - 3:4-8,13-16; 6:1-8; 14:4,18; cf 16:6-8

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***Who will you serve?***

# The Glory of God

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- ❑ Burning bush
- ❑ Pillar of cloud & fire
- ❑ Sinai
- ❑ Above the pavement (24:9-11)
- ❑ Moses in the cleft of the rock
- ❑ Cloud fills the tabernacle

***- From the individual to the nation***

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# Egypt and Israel in the Wild

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## **Egypt**

- Land decimated
- Water undrinkable
- Rain of hail
- Locusts 'come up' and 'cover'
- Darkness

## **Israel**

- Barren land made habitable
  - Water healed (2x)
  - Rain of bread
  - Quails 'come up' and 'cover'
  - Pillar of cloud/fire
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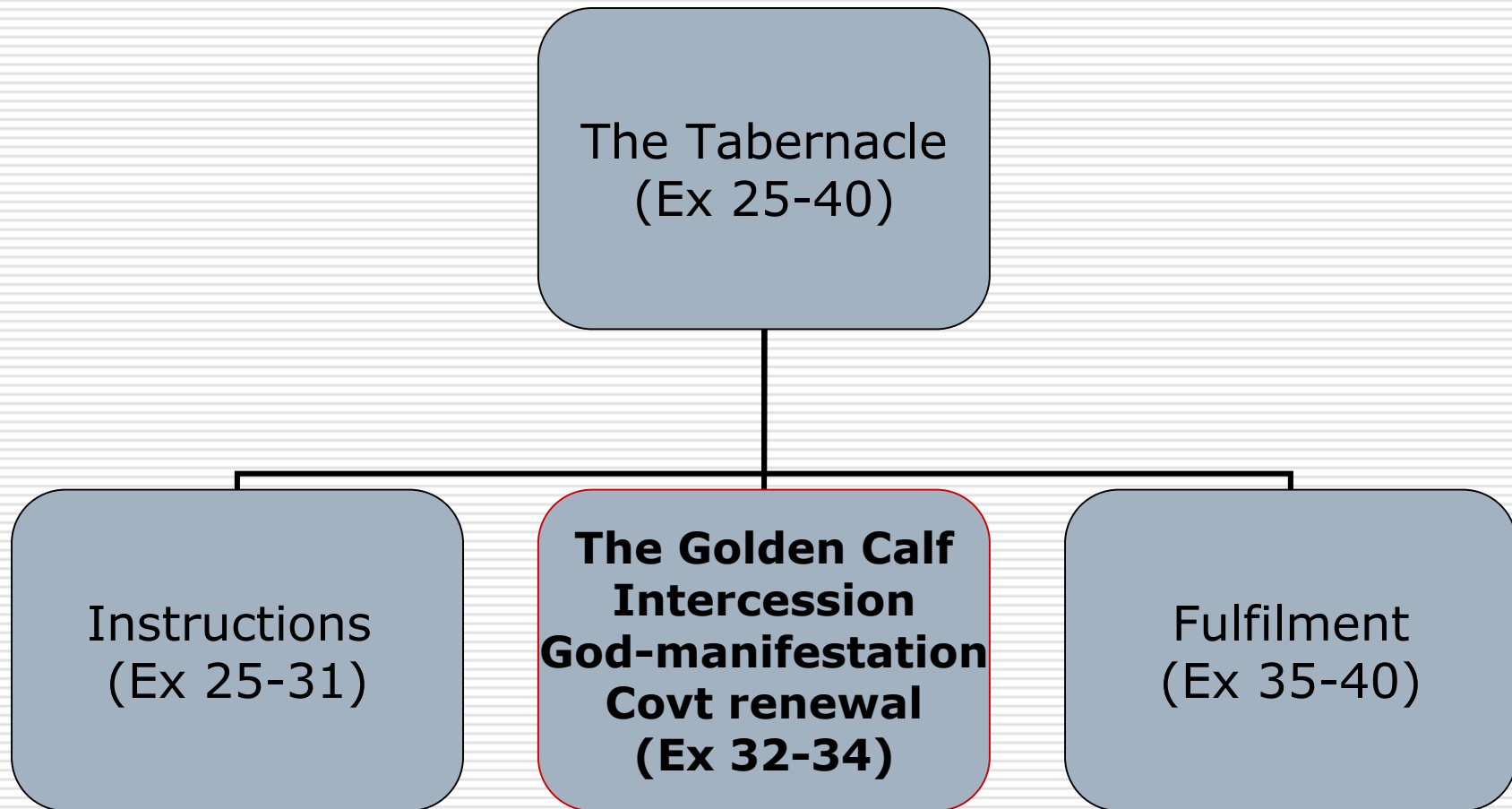
# Mount Sinai

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- Holiness of God
  - Need for a mediator
  - Selection of laws given
  - Covenant made & ratified with blood
  - Israel immediately break it
  - Moses intercedes
  - God keeps His terms by preparing tabernacle
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# Creation, Fall, Re-creation

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# Tabernacle Accounts

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## □ **Command (25-31)**

- Ark/table/lamp
- Tabernacle
- Bronze altar
- Courtyard
- Ephod
- Breastpiece
- Robe
- Gold plate
- Tunic/turban etc
- Incense altar
- Laver
- Anointing oil
- Incense

## □ **Fulfilment (36-40)**

- Tabernacle
  - Ark/table/lamp
  - Incense altar
  - Anointing oil
  - Incense
  - Bronze altar
  - Laver
  - Courtyard
  - Ephod
  - Breastpiece
  - Robe
  - Tunic, turban etc
  - Gold plate
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# The Tabernacle

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## □ The Sanctuary

- Holy, sacred
- M-q-d-sh, q-d-sh, q-d-sh q-d-sh-m

## □ The Tabernacle

- Dwelling place (tented area)
- House-like features

## □ Tent of Meeting/Assembly

- 2 types: 27:20-31:7 vs 33:7,9
  - Mobile-home Ex 25:8-9
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# Parallels with Creation

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- ❑ Moses ascends on Day 7 (24:16)
  - ❑ 7 speeches of God (25:1; 30:11,17,22,34; 31:1,12)
  - ❑ Gen 2:1-3 // Ex 31:12-17; 35:2-3
  - ❑ 7x 'just as the Lord commanded M' (40:17-33)
  - ❑ G&M 'see' work 'finished' and 'bless' it (39:32,43; 40:33; Gen 1:31; 2:1-3)
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# Parallels with Eden

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- ❑ Cherubim (ark, veil)
- ❑ God 'walking'; presence (Lev 16:11-12; Dt 23:14; 2Sam 7:6-7)
- ❑ Entrance to east; eastward in Eden
- ❑ Tree of life; candlestick as a tree
- ❑ 'Serve' and 'keep' garden & tab

***Tabernacle as a microcosm of creation***

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# The Three Stage Plan

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1. Redemption out of Egypt
  2. Covenant relationship (God's terms; our response; creation of a nation)
  3. A meeting place; God dwells with us
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# The Pentateuch

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## The Book of Leviticus

# Structure and Shape

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- 1-7      Sacrifices
  - 8-10    Priesthood
  - 11-15   Purity
  - 16      Day of atonement
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- 17-26   Rituals/morals; 'Holiness Code'
  - 27      Appendix: vows & redeeming
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# Holiness & Cleanness

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## Holy

- Separate, set apart, morally pure, without sin, cleanse(d)
- 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:3,7,26; 22:2,32
- English 90x, Hebrew 152x (holy, sanctify, etc)
- Esp chs 17-25

## Clean

- 72x

## Unclean

- 132x

## To profane, desecrate

- 17x

## Esp chs 11-16

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# Grades of Purity

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Holy	Holy of holies	High priest
Holy	Holy place	Priest
Holy	Courtyard	Levite
Clean	Camp	Israelites
Unclean	Outside camp	Non-Israelites

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# The Offerings (1)

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	Laity	Priests
Burnt	1:2-17	6:8-13 (1)
Cereal	2:1-16	6:14-23 (2)
Peace	3:1-17	7:11-21 <b>(5)</b>
Purification	4:1 - 5:13	6:24-30 (3)
Reparation	5:14 - 6:7	7:1-10 (4)

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# The Offerings (2)

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## □ **The Burnt Offering**

- All the animal, without blemish
- Repair broken relationships betw G/man
- Covenants

## □ **The Cereal Offering**

- AV `meat`; NIV `grain`; no animal
- Food for priests
- Gift / tribute eg to a king (1K 4:21)

## □ **The Peace Offering**

- NIV `fellowship`; meal (fellowship)
  - Most eaten by worshipper
  - Thankfulness, vow, freewill
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# The Offerings (3)

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## □ **The Purification Offering**

- AV, NIV 'sin'
- Cleanse defilement of sin (pollution caused by sinner, not sinner himself)
- Blood used to cleanse
- Sometimes to sanctify people

## □ **The Reparation Offering**

- AV 'trespass', NIV 'guilt'
  - Compensate for wrong against God
  - Guilt, reparation, compensation
  - Against another person?
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# Atonement / Expiation

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□ Kipper

□ Object = sin

□ Object  $\neq$  God

□ Effect =  
forgiveness

□ God provides the  
essential ingredient

□ 17:11

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# Structure and Shape

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□ 1-7      Sacrifices

□ 8-10     Priesthood

□ 11-16   Purity

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□ 17-26   Rituals/morals; 'Holiness Code'

□ 27        Appendix: vows & redeeming

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# Purity (chps 11-16)

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- Clean and unclean animals
- Birth
- Skin diseases
- Growths on buildings
- Genital discharges
- Purif. of tab. / Day of Atonement

***Cleanness is not contagious! Uncleanness is.***

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# Clean and Unclean Animals

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- Land beasts
    - Hooves cloven in two
    - Chew cud; ruminants
  - Sea creatures
    - Fins and scales (most fish; no shellfish)
  - Fowl
    - 20/21 forbidden birds (prey/carrion)
    - All flying insects (Dt) except 4 locusts (Lev)
  - Swarming creatures of the ground
    - All forbidden in Lev 11:41-43; no mention in Dt
-

# Rationales for Un/clean Animals

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1. Holiness (not 'disgusting' Dt 14:3)
  2. Make distinctions
  3. Restrain hunting and interference in nature
  4. Efficient use of grassland
  5. Hygiene (pork, shellfish, scavengers)
  6. Anomalous animals (eg swimmers, reptiles 11:41-43)
  7. Pagan (pigs in underworld worship)
  8. Sanctity of life
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# The Importance of Life

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- ❑ Animals: scavengers, hunters
  - ❑ Carcasses (11:24-40)
  - ❑ Birth (prolonging the fall / curse)
  - ❑ Bodily discharges
  - ❑ Scale disease / leprosy
  - ❑ Blood prohibition (17:1-16)
  - ❑ Defilement from corpse (Num 19)
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# The Holiness Code

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- ❑ I am the LORD (yhwh)
- ❑ I (yhwh) am holy; ...(I) that sanctify you
- ❑ To profane (name, etc)
- ❑ Neighbour (rare term)
- ❑ Flesh (next of kin)
- ❑ To observe and do
- ❑ My statutes and my judgments
- ❑ I will set my face against
- ❑ I will cut off from the midst (of people)
- ❑ To bear (his) sin / iniquity (self or others)

***Exhortation? 18:2-5,24-30;***

***20:22-26; 22:31-33; 25:18-24; 26***

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# The Pentateuch

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The Book of Numbers

# Law and Narrative

	<b>Law</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
1:1-10:10	<b>X</b>	
10:11-ch14		<b>X</b>
Ch15	<b>X</b>	
16-17		<b>X</b>
18-19	<b>X</b>	
20-25		<b>X</b>
26:1-27:11	<b>X</b>	
27:12-23		<b>X</b>
28-30	<b>X</b>	
31:1-33:49		<b>X</b>
33:50-ch36	<b>X</b>	



# Structure and Shape

1-10	2 mths; 19 days Census 1 (1:1-54) 1:10-11; Ex 40:17	Sinai Journey preparations
11-25	38 years Selected events	Wilderness Faithless journeying
26-36	40 <sup>th</sup> year Census 2 (26:1-65)	At border Plains of Moab About to enter

# The Censuses

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## **First census**

- Chp 1
- Intro 1:2-3
- Similar tribal order
- Levites afterwards
- Warriors counted; military camp

## **Second census**

- Chp 26
  - Intro 26:2
  - Similar tribal order
  - Levites afterwards
  - Only Joshua and Caleb survive
  - Explain size of land allotment (v63-65)
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# Preparation for a Journey

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- Who will go? How many?
  - Who will be the leaders?
  - What special responsibilities?
  - Marching order?
  - Sleeping arrangements?
  - What equipment will be needed?
  - What about hygiene and welfare?
  - When and where to?
  - Preparation of the team?
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# Hierarchy of service

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- High Priest
  - Priests
  - Levites (unique)
    - Removal men
    - Guards (3:7; 1:50-53; 8:19)
    - Musicians, helpers and doorkeepers
    - 3:11-13
  - People
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# 11-25: Murmuring (etc.) (1)

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- ❑ Complaint (11:1)
  - ❑ Food ('give us flesh') (11:4-5)
  - ❑ Miram and Aaron attack Moses (12:1)
  - ❑ Faithless spies; presumption (13-14)
  - ❑ Return to Egypt (14:4)
  - ❑ Sabbath breaker (15:32)
  - ❑ Korah, Dathan, Abiram (16)
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# 11-25: Murmuring (etc.) (2)

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- ❑ We'll all die! (17:12)
- ❑ Moses' sin (20:10-12)
- ❑ No bread (21:5)
- ❑ Balaam interlude (22-24)
- ❑ False gods (25)

*11:2; 12:13; 14:13-19; 21:7; 25:7-13*

***God testing Israel? Israel testing God?***

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# Questions

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- Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? (12:2)
  - Wherefore, then, lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord? (16:3)
  - Wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt to bring us into this evil place? (20:5)
  - Have I conceived all this people? (11:12)
  - How long shall I bear with this evil congregation which murmur against Me? (14:27)
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# Parallels in the Wilderness

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## **Exodus 15-19**

- Wilderness
- Manna
- Water from rock
- Desert tribes
- Complains

## **Numbers 11-25**

- Wilderness
- Manna
- Water from rock
- Desert tribes
- Complaints
- Sin, repentance & judgment

***What is the difference between the two?***

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# The Balaam Incident

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## **Numbers 22-24**

- Balak's mission
- Balaam: Gentile outsider (Egypt?)
- Curse -> blessing
- Promises (23:19)
- Baal-peor

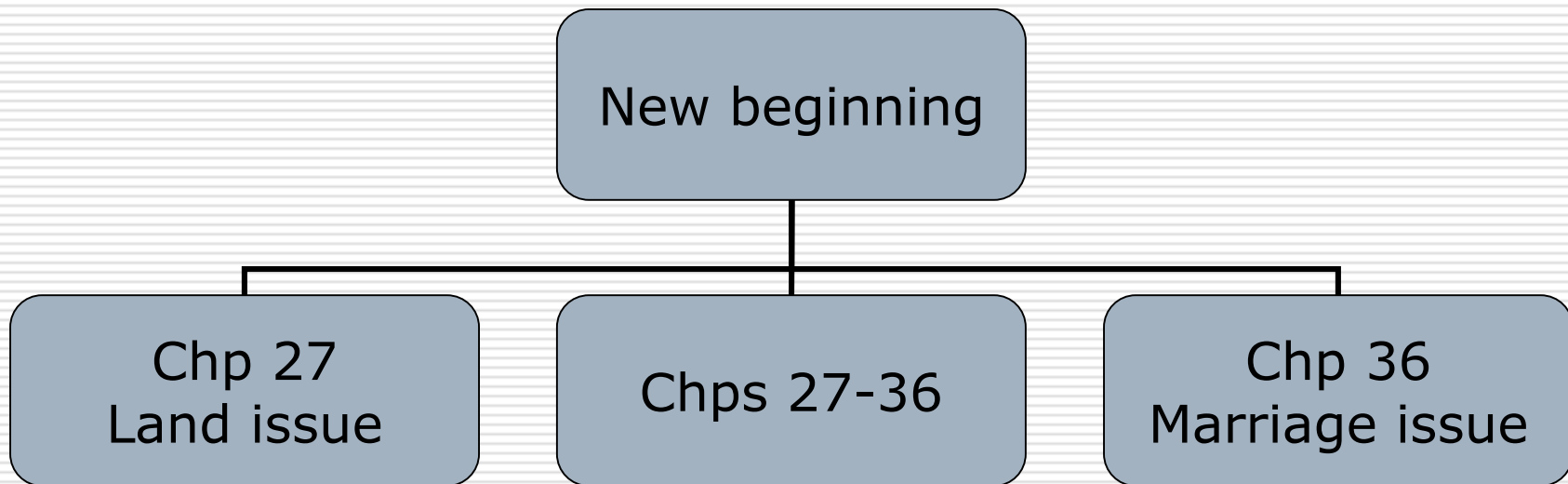
## **Other references**

- Num 31:8-16
  - Dt 23:5-6
  - Josh 13:22; 24:9+
  - Jud 11:25
  - Neh 13:2
  - Mic 6:5
  - 2 Pet 2:15-16; Jud 11; Rev 2:14
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# The Daughters of Zelophehad

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- ❑ Two episodes concerning the daughters of Zelophehad frame Dt 27-36
- ❑ They teach the successful resolving of competing spiritual principles



# A New Generation (26-36)

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- ❑ Not one death recorded (31:49)
  - ❑ Successful military victories (28,31)
  - ❑ Potential crises resolved (27:1-11; 31:14-15; 32)
  - ❑ New laws for future life in the land (34; whole section)
  - ❑ Successor appointed for Moses
  - ❑ Feasts and celebrations to be kept
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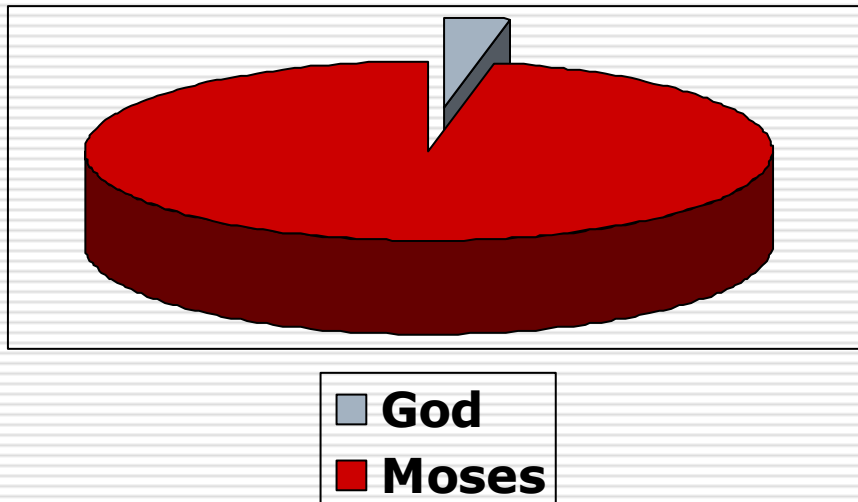
# The Pentateuch

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## The Book of Deuteronomy

# Moses the Mediator

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## Moses' words...

- Report God
- Report others
  - People
  - People & priests
  - Himself & priests
- Interpret and mediate God

***3 key passages: 5:1-5; 18:15-19; 34:10-12***

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# What Kind of 'Second Law'?

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- A reminder to the new generation?
  - An expansion of Ex 20:23-23:19?  
(50% common; is Ex a summary?)
  - Moses' last will and testament?
  - Words to prepare for entry to the Promised Land?
  - Moses' interpretation / explanation / proclamation of the Law?
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# Two Law Collections

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## **Exodus**

- 10 Commandments (Ex 20)
- Sinai Laws (21-23)
- Covenant making
- People respond; bilateral
- Dt 5:2

## **Deuteronomy**

- 10 Commandments (Dt 5:6-21)
- Moab Laws (Dt 5-26)
- Covenant making
- No response; unilateral
- Dt 29:1,10-15

***19 statutes of Ex 21-23 recast in Dt***

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# Special Language

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## **Formal Language**

- Hear, heed, hearken
- You; vocatives
- Oaths, promises
- Law, commands, statutes, ordinance
- Covenant
- To day, this day (73x)

## **Other Themes**

- Heart
  - Election
  - Land
  - Place of worship (12:5,11,14,21; 14:23; 15:20; 16:6 etc)
  - Concern for the disadvantaged
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# Covenants and Treaties

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<preamble>

1:5-3:29 (Historical) Prologue

4:1-11:32 Basic stipulations

12:1-26:19 Detailed stipulations

27:1-26 Special clause / summary used for recording  
or renewal of covt (Ex 20; Josh 24:1; 1S12)

28:1-14 Blessings <god list>

28:15-68 Curses <&blessings>

29:1-30:20 Recapitulation <omitted>

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# Structure and Shape

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- **Initial Address: the Past (1-4)**
  - Horeb to Moab – a recapitulation
- **Main Address (1): The Principles (5-11)**
  - Intro to Law Book – general principles
- **Main Address (2): The Law Book (12-26)**
  - Detailed regulations
- **Conclusion: the Future (27-34)**
  - Commitment and consequences
  - Covenant-making
  - Moses' Blessing, Songs, Exht & Death

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***1:1-5; 4:44-49; 12:1; 26:16-19***

# The Law Book (1)

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- Two types of law
    - Apodictic (do/not)
      - 14:22; 15:1,19; 16:18
    - Casuistic (if...then)
      - 22:6-8; 23:21-25
  - Treaties/law codes
    - Sacred/mundane
  - Law Book set in an explanatory frame
  - Principles of relationship of God and man
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# The Law Book (2)

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- ❑ Religious ceremonies (12-16)
  - ❑ Political structure (16:18-18:22)
  - ❑ Civil matters (19-25)
  - ❑ Command to worship (26)
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# Today and Tomorrow

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- 27 Ebal & Gerizim; bless & curse
  - 28 Blessings and curses
  - 29+ Covt of Moab; bless & curse;  
word very nigh; life & death
  - 31 Moses -> Joshua; writing law/covt
  - 32 Moses' / God's song / warning
  - 33 Moses' final blessing
  - 34 Death of Moses; none like him
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# Predicted Failure and Hope

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□ Constant infidelity references

- 28:15-68;
- 29:17-28
- 30:17-19
- 31:16-29
- 32:15-55

□ Hope, nevertheless

- 29:10-15
- 31:1-8;
- 33:1-29

***Compare the words of the prophets...***

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# What Next?

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- Biblical history
    - The 'Deuteronomistic History'
    - Joshua – 2 Kings
  - An 'unfinished symphony'?
    - Uncertainty of the future
    - A story without an ending
  - A prophet like Moses
  - The calling to be a special people
-