

# The Bible in a Nutshell

## The Pentateuch

Means “five vessels” or “five containers” or “five volume book” in Greek. Most Biblical scholars date the authorship of the Pentateuch to be 400-600 B.C.E. Keep in mind, however, that this only dates the *assembly* of these works into a single volume, the individual stories and scrolls are *much* older than this date.

### Genesis (Hebrew: “Origin”)

Genesis begins with the story of the creation of the world by God. We are told that Creation was originally perfect, free from sin and death, but that mankind chose to have the knowledge of good and evil, and were cast out of the Garden of Eden. From that time, evil enters the world, which eventually becomes so corrupt God decides he must end it, but is moved by Noah's faithfulness and decides to spare it, but only after a tremendous flood. Genesis also tells of Mankind's attempt to build a tower to reach up to the heavens. The theme of covenant and redemption is continued with the story of Abraham. There are the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, and the four matriarchs: Sarah, Rebekah, Leah and Rachel. God gives to the patriarchs a promise of the land of Canaan, but at the end of Genesis the sons of Jacob end up leaving Canaan for Egypt due to a famine.

### Exodus (Hebrew: “Going Out”)

Exodus begins the story of God's revelation to his people Israel through Moses, who leads them out of Egypt (Exodus 1–18) to Mount Sinai. There the people accept a covenant with God, agreeing to be his people in return for agreeing to abide by his Law. Moses receives the Torah from God, and mediates His laws and Covenant (Exodus 19–24) to the people of Israel. Exodus also deals with the first violation of the covenant when the Golden Calf was constructed (Exodus 32–34). Exodus concludes with the instructions on building the Tabernacle (Exodus 25–31; 35–40). The two main events of Exodus, the flight from Egypt and the divine gift of the Ten Commandments, form the cornerstone of Jewish identity and history.

### Leviticus (Hebrew: Relating to the Levites--“The Lord Called”)

Leviticus begins with instructions to the Israelites on how to use the Tabernacle, which they had just built. Laws are set out to ensure their identity as a community, to keep clean and holy, to ensure their bloodlines are kept pure, and a list of festivals and ceremonies that are to be observed. This book clearly defines the Hebrew culture in the ancient world. The ritual laws, sometimes called the Holiness Code, form the majority of this book.

### Numbers (English: The numbers of the Israelites)

Numbers, in addition to a list of the names and duties and head count of the tribes and clans and families of the Hebrews as they wandered in the desert, but also recounts the struggle between the difficulty of freedom and the relative safety of slavery. The unbelief of the people results in God declaring that they must wait 40 years before entering the Promised Land, and that Moses himself will never enter it.

### Deuteronomy (Greek: “Second Law”)

Deuteronomy is a series of speeches by Moses on the plains of Moab opposite Jericho. Moses proclaims the Law, gives instruction concerning covenant renewal and gives Israel new laws (the "Deuteronomic Code)". At the end of the book Moses is allowed to see the promised land from a mountain, and then dies. Knowing that he was nearing the end of his life, Moses had appointed Joshua his successor, bequeathing to him the mantle of leadership. Soon afterwards Israel begins the conquest of Canaan.

Ha Shan-Ya I-Sha-Ra Sha-Bat-Yam Ya-Shar-Ah-La The 12 Tribes Of Israel			
1.	Judah	- Yahawah Thanks -	Ya-Ha-Wa-Dah יְהוּדָה
2.	Benjamin	- Son of the Right -	Ban-Yam-Yan בִּנְיָמִן
3.	Levi	- Joined to me -	Law-Ya לֵוִי
4.	Simeon	- Affliction heard -	Sha-Mi-Wan שִׁמְעוֹן
5.	Zebulon	- Dwelling -	Za-Ba-La-Wan זְבֻלֹן
6.	Ephraim	- I am fruitful -	Ah-Pa-Ra-Yam אֶפְרַיִם
7.	Manasseh	- Made to forget -	Ma-Na-Shah מְנַשֶּׁה
8.	Gad	- Troop -	Gad גָּד
9.	Reuben	- See it's a son -	Ra-Aw-Ban רְאוּבֵן
10.	Asher	- Happy -	Ah-Shar אֲשֵׁר
11.	Naphtali	- My wrestling -	Na-Pa-Thal-Ya נַפְתָּלִי
12.	Issachar	- He is hired -	Yash-Sha-Kar יִשָּׂכָר

Read Gen. Ch 49 & Deut Ch 33

### Outline of the Book of Genesis:

- Creation - Chapters 1-3
- Cain & Abel Chapters 4-5
- Noah Chapters 6-10
- The Tower of Babel Chapter 11
- Abraham Chapters 12-25
- Jacob Chapters 26-36
- Joseph Chapters 37-50



### Outline of Exodus:

- The first 20 chapters of Exodus are the "traditional" story of Exodus. The birth of Moses, his years growing up in the Egyptian court, his realization that he is one of the Hebrew people, and his eventual role as the leader of the Hebrew people and their flight from Egypt to the Promised Land.
- Chapters 20-40 cover the formation of the Hebrews as a people. Their festivals, their rites and their beliefs are defined in the second half of the book. Also, the complaints and fears of the people are told, and their unbelief results in having to wander for 40 years before finding the Promised Land. The Ten Commandments can be found in chapter 20. The instructions for the Tabernacle, The Ark of the Covenant, and the sacrificial alter are explained.

### Outline of Leviticus:

- List of the sacrifices and the work of the priests (Levites--of the tribe of Levi) chapters 1-10
- Rules concerning purity and cleanliness--Chapters 11-18
- Holiness in Personal Conduct--Chapter 19
- Instructions for priests, a list of festivals, and gifts offered to God are in chapters 20-27. Pay particular attention to 25:8-22, The Year of the Jubilee. This particular celebration was cited repeatedly a few years ago as a Biblical mandate during the "Occupy Waal Street" protests.

### Outline of Numbers:

- Most of the book is a list of the troops, tribes and clans of the Israelites as they travel on their 40 year journey of wandering to the Promised Land.
- The long list of numbers is punctuated by stories of the people's complaints and rebellion against Moses, and, by extension, God, in chapters 11,12,14,and 16. The people are given miracles (Chapter 20) and punishments (Chapter 21) as they fight other tribes for the right to exist.
- A particular highlight is the story of Balaam, who was paid to put a curse on the Hebrews.

### Outline of Deuteronomy:

- Moses prepares his people for entry into the Promised Land, and recounts the story of their flight from Egypt in Chapters 1-3
- Moses urges the people to stay faithful to God, and renews the laws to be faithful, pure, and holy, and remember their past and where they have come from. Chapters 4-13
- More laws and rules Chapters 14-29
- Moses calls the people to return to God in a powerful and moving speech in Chapter 30.
- He then names Joshua as his successor in Chapter 31.
- Moses sings a song of faith to the people in Chapter 32.
- Moses blesses the people in Chapter 33, and dies in Chapter 34.