

Genesis thru Deuteronomy

Genesis 1:1

Our study will take us on a brief journey through each of the books of the Bible.

Our aim: To impart perspective and the key to each book.

Our construction: Key word; key verse; Key to Christ.

Genesis

A. Means: Beginnings.

- a. Moses is the author and is explaining to Israel how they came about as a nation.
- b. He deals with the creation of the universe and the creation of man Gen.1:1 – Gen.2:25.
- c. He then deals with the fall of man into sin and the beginning process of redemption Gen.3:1-23.
- d. He then traces the history of man with the main characters being Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph who each have a part to play in the beginnings of the nation and its role regarding redemption.

B. Keys to Genesis:

- a. Key word: beginnings of universe, life, man, Sabbath, death, marriage, sin, redemption, family, literature, cities, language and sacrifice.
- b. Key Verses: Gen.1:1 “In the beginning God created...”; Gen.3:15 “And I will put enmity between you and the woman...”; Gen.12:3 “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you...”
- c. Key Chapter; Gen.15: to the descendants of Abraham will come forth the nation of Hebrews called Israel who would be “strangers” in a foreign land but would “come out with great possessions” (Gen.15:14).
- d. Key to Christ: Gen.3:15 the seed of Eve would lead to Jesus thru Seth, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the tribe of Judah. Adam was a type of Him to come (Rm.5:14) as both were miraculously conceived. Abel’s murder parallels Christ and the little known Melchizedek represents priest and king at same time (Heb.7).

Exodus

A. Means: Greek, to exit

- a. Moses is the author who explains that an exit from Egypt is the only way forward.
- b. The theme is redemption i.e. to free from bondage and death to that way of life.
- c. He deals with his own exit from Pharaoh’s house and his leadership to free the Hebrews as well.
- d. He deals with the epic struggle of his own life for 80 yrs.; 30 years leading and forming a corporate body of believers through an intense struggle to leave behind the baggage of old ties and the formation of new ties via the Law handed down from God at Sinai.

B. Keys to Exodus:

- a. Key word: Redemption. Redeemed i.e. purchased back from bondage; Moses redeemed from the Nile to the redeeming presence of God in the Tabernacle.
- b. Key verses: Ex.6:6 “I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgements”
- c. Key chapter: Chapters 12-14 the salvation of the Hebrews through the blood sacrifice of the Passover Lamb and the baptism through the Red Sea to freedom all types and shadows (Heb.10:1) of the Christ and church to come.
- d. Key to Christ: Moses the lawgiver pointing to the law of Christ (I Cor.9:21); The Passover Lamb pointing to the cross (I Cor.5:7; High Priest foreshadows Jesus our High Priest today (Heb.9:11-12).

Leviticus

A. Means: Pertains to the Levites (more importantly the duties of the priestly tribe)

- a. Moses is the author who issues forth God’s requirements (standing orders) for the Levites to administer the sacrifices, tabernacle duties etc.
- b. The theme is God authorised sacrifice.
- c. He deals with how they must approach God relating to these sacrifices (1-17); the way of mediation of the priesthood (8-10); to make the nation pure thru atonement (11-16) and remind the nation that blood sacrifice demonstrate that sin requires a costly sacrifice e.g. Lev.17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.”

B. Keys to Leviticus:

- a. Key word: Holiness i.e. the holiness of God and how the people may approach God only by being holy themselves thru sacrifice.
- b. Key verses: Lev.17:11 “it is the blood that makes atonement for life”; Lev.20:7-8 “Sanctify yourselves therefore and be holy”
- c. Key chapter: Lev.16 The Day of Atonement “*Yom Kippur*” where the H/Priest entered the “Holy of Holies” to make atonement of cleansing from the sins of the nation (Lev.16:30).

- d. Key to Christ: The burnt offering typifies Christ's total sacrifice; The High Priest typifies Jesus as our H/Priest; the 7 feasts mentioned: Passover, Unleaven Bread, first fruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Tabernacles all typify Christ's ministry.

Numbers

- A. Means: Arithmetic
 - a. Moses is the author who is covering 39 years of the history of Israel from the last 20 days at Mt Sinai until they finally arrive after 40 years in the wilderness at the plains of Moab.
 - b. The theme is numbering the exploits, tribulations, and mistakes (including his own) of the fledgling nation.
 - c. He deals with the old generation (1: 1-10:10) i.e. those who witnessed the escape with all its miraculous wonders. Their order is explicitly explained into organised groups with designated tasks eg: Levites and the families of such and their individual responsibilities 3:27-32 'who kept guard over the sanctuary'. He deals with the rebellious generation who will live and die in the wilderness because they "go back to Egypt" (14:4) and even his own mistake (Num.20) then he would deal with the new generation (26-360 who would be reorganised and conquer Canaan, the promised land.
- B. Keys to Numbers:
 - a. Key word: Wanderings of a disbelieving people resulting in a judgement that should wander the wilderness for 40 years – Heb.4:6 "Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience"
 - b. Key verses: Num.14:22-23 "none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it." Num.20:12 "And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them."
 - c. Key chapter: Num.14 Judgement day in which God had enough and banishes them "According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure." (judgement is always equal with what was done wrong).
 - d. Key to Christ: Serpent on the stake type for the cross (21:4-9) cf Jn3:14 "so must the Son of man be lifted up"; the spiritual rock from whence came water – and that rock was Christ and is our Rock (1 Cor.10:4); bread of life likened to the "manna (Jn.6:31-33).

Deuteronomy

- A. Means: This Second Law literally second reading of the Law.
 - a. Moses is the author who records what he spoke to the nation in the Plains of Moab due east of the River Jordan.
 - b. Taking about a month to give three discourses Moses explains to the new generation to believe and obey God if you want to receive His blessings.
 - c. 1st sermon (1:1-4:43) Israel's disbelief and the result no rest; 2nd sermon (4:44-26:19) dealing with the moral and legal code that the nation should abide in "statutes and ordinances"; 3rd sermon (27-34) the predictions of blessing and curses, dispersion and return then 34:10-12 Moses epitaph.
- B. Keys to Deuteronomy:
 - a. Key word: Covenant established at Sinai and enlarged and renewed.
 - a. Key verses: Dt.10:12-13 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good."; Dt.30:19-20 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."
 - b. Key chapter: Dt.27 ratification of the covenant "Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel, "Keep silence and hear, O Israel: this day you have become the people of the LORD your God" (Dt.27:9).
 - c. Key to Christ: Dt.18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers--it is to him you shall listen" [cf Mk.9:7 "And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."]