



FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

The Message of the Bible

Week 1: The Pentateuch

Why the Church Needs the Old Testament

1. The Old Testament text is God-breathed and therefore profitable.
2. The Old Testament models and teaches skill for living.
3. The Old Testament describes God and instructs us how to worship Him.
4. The New Testament interprets Christ according to the picture painted by the Old Testament.
5. The Old Testament is the theological foundation of the New Testament. (e.g. saving faith, sin, man, etc.)

The Book of the Torah (Pentateuch)

1. The first five books of the OT are a single, unified book called either the Torah or the Pentateuch.
2. The name “Torah” is the Hebrew word for “instruction” (sometimes it is translated “law”).
3. The term “Pentateuch” means “five-volume book.”
4. The authority of this book comes from its author, namely Moses.
5. The significance of following Torah goes beyond mere conformity to the intricacies of the Mosaic Law given at Mt. Sinai. (Psalm 78)

The Importance of the Pentateuch

1. The Pentateuch is the foundational document of the OT.
2. The Book of Torah was intended to be read appropriately, meditated upon habitually, and obeyed perpetually. (Joshua 1, Psalm 1, Malachi 4)
3. One’s response to Torah resulted in either blessing or cursing. The teachings of the Pentateuch were the standards by which individuals as well as the nation of Israel would be evaluated.

The Teaching of the Pentateuch

1. The People and Their God – Identity of God – The God of Sinai is the God of the Patriarchs and the God of Creation.

2. The Covenants
3. Faith vs. Law
4. The Last Days – The way God worked in the past is the way He will work in the future. The Pentateuch focuses on the future, giving us a picture of what will come “in the last days.”

How should I respond?

1. Meditate consistently upon God’s instructions.
2. Worship your faithful (i.e. covenant-keeping) Creator God.
3. Wait expectantly for the outworking of the eternal plan of God. Marvel at the eternal plan of God.