



# BEACON UNIVERSITY

6003 Veterans Parkway, Columbus GA 31909

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## BIB 200 PENTATEUCH

### I. COURSE TITLE:

**BIB 200 Pentateuch**

### II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A study of the first five books of the Old Testament with emphasis on the text itself. Attention is given to the historical and geographical context in which the biblical narrative takes place. The student will gain understanding of authorship, geography, history and cultural considerations. Key foundational theological concepts are discussed: creation, covenant, redemption, law and sacrifice.

### III. COURSE RATIONALE:

#### A. *PHILOSOPHICAL*

1. To examine the components of the Pentateuch and its significance for belief and the practice of Christian life.
2. To produce a profound respect for the value of the writings of Moses in the life of the Christian and the Church.
3. To enable the student to understand the key relationships between persons, places and events of the Pentateuch.

#### B. *PRACTICAL*

1. This course will help students develop a profound respect for the Pentateuch and its relationship with the rest of the Old Testament, and how the Pentateuch provides a basis for the entire Bible.
2. The course will help students understand how the books of the Pentateuch point to Christ and the cross and are foundational to understanding the eternal, incarnational truth of the work of God in and with His people.
3. The course will assist the student to develop knowledge of scripture that can be used in his personal life and his ministerial vocation.

### IV. COURSE PREREQUISITES:

BIB 101 or instructors permission

## **V. COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

### ***Cognitive Domain:***

1. The student will be able to demonstrate and explain a working knowledge of the Pentateuch and its impact to other parts of the Bible (Knowledge).
2. The student will be able to understand and relate the settings of the Pentateuch and relate the significance of these books to the whole of the Old and New Testaments. (Comprehension, and Synthesis).
3. The Student will be able identify and compare the basic types of literature contained in the Pentateuch with that found in other divisions of the canon: Historical Books, Poetic Books, Wisdom and Prophetic Literature (Comprehension and Synthesis).
4. The student will be able to discuss the relationship between the knowledge gained in this class and his or her own theological/spiritual development. (Comprehension, Analysis, Synthesis and Evaluation).

### ***Affective Domain:***

1. The student will become aware of the various critical issues that confront Christians as they are introduced to Pentateuchal studies (Receiving).
2. The student will be ready to answer those who would deny the divine authorship of the Pentateuch (Responding).
3. The student will be able to appreciate the literary forms that are present in the Pentateuch (Valuing).
4. The student will gain an ability to arrange the knowledge gained in such a way that he or she will be able to share his or her informed opinions with others (Organization).
5. The student will become comfortable with his or her ability to discern those theories of Pentateuchal studies that have the greatest value to the student of the Bible and use them to better assist them in his or her overall theological development (Value Complex).

## **VI. COURSE OUTLINE**

### **A. Video Presentations**

1. *Introduction and Historical Background*
2. *History of the Ancient Middle East*
3. *Studies In the Pentateuch*
4. *Genesis*
5. *Genesis (part two)*
6. *Genesis (part three)*
7. *Genesis (part four)*
8. *Exodus*
9. *Exodus (part two)*
10. *Exodus (part three)*

11. *Exodus (part four)*
12. *Exodus (part five)*
13. *Leviticus*
14. *Leviticus (part two)*
15. *Numbers*
16. *Numbers (part two)*
17. *Deuteronomy*
18. *Deuteronomy (part two)*
19. *The Pentateuch In the New Testament*
20. *The Pentateuch In the Church Today*

**B. Online Module Dates and Assignments:**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Module 1	Jan 12 – 25	Video sessions 1-3, discussion forum 1, Bible readings
Module 2	Jan 26 – Feb 8	Video sessions 4-6, discussion forum 2, Bible readings
Module 3	Feb 9 – 22	Video sessions 7-9, discussion forum 3, Bible readings
Module 4	Feb 23 – March 8	Video session 10, discussion forum 4, Bible readings, and mid-term exam
Module 5	March 9 – 22	Video sessions 11-13, discussion forum 5, Bible readings, and Schnittjer book review
Module 6	March 30 – April 12	Video sessions 14-16, discussion forum 6, Bible readings
Module 7	April 13 – 26	Video sessions 17-19, discussion forum 7, Bible readings, Expository paper
Module 8	April 27 – May 8	Video session 20, discussion forum 8, Bible readings, Bible reading report, and final exam

**VII. COURSE METHOD:**

- A. General Method: Class sessions will include the presentation of lecture material as video presentations. There will also be an opportunity to discuss issues of introduction and key portions of Scripture on the online discussion forums. Work outside of class will focus on reading assignments, brief written responses to those reading assignments, and an opportunity to reflectively expound on a chosen passage of Old Testament Scripture.
- B. Online Method: The uniqueness of distance learning necessitates unique learning experiences and methods. The power of an online course management system like Moodle makes unique assessment methods possible. As a result, this online course will follow the module schedule above. Grades will be given for the viewing of video sessions, participation in discussion forums, the completion of written assignments, and exams. In each case, the deadline will be midnight on the last day of the module.

## VII. COURSE TEXTS:

Schnittjer, Gary Edward. *The Torah Story: An Apprenticeship on the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

## IX. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Reading:** Read the assigned portions of the text of the Old Testament according to the following module schedule – a reading report will be included with both the midterm and the final exam:
1. Genesis 1-3
  2. Genesis 4-35
  3. Genesis 36-50; Exodus 1-12
  4. Exodus 13-40
  5. Leviticus
  6. Numbers
  7. Deuteronomy 1-26
  8. Deuteronomy 27-34
- B. Discussion:** Each module will include a discussion forum question posed by the instructor. Every student is required to post two responses to the questions and to respond to at least two other student responses. Forum participation will be graded according to the quality of critical thinking and the correctness of language usage. A grade for each forum will be posted the week after the assigned Module.
- C. Writing:** Read the text by Schnittjer in its entirety and write a “Book Report” using the guide provided. It must be at least 750 words in length, typewritten and double-spaced. The book review will be due by the end of the fifth module.
- D. Research & Writing:**
1. Expository Paper:
    - a. A minimum of four (4) pages.
    - b. Pick a short passage from any of the five books of the Pentateuch and write a short commentary that reflects the observation, interpretation, and application of the text.
    - c. A minimum of three (3) sources should be cited in the text.
    - d. The paper must be a minimum of 1,250 words in length.
    - e. Due by the end of the seventh module.
  2. Format Guidelines:
    - a. All written papers shall be typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 12 cpi, black ink on white paper 8½ x 11, portrait.
    - b. Prepared according to Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.
- F. Testing:** Course exams will be a review of the contents of class lectures. There will be two exams:

1. A midterm examination will be taken by the end of the fourth module
2. A final examination will be taken by the end of the eighth module.

## **X. COURSE EVALUATION:**

### **A. Grade:**

Bible Reading	10%
Book Review	15 %
Discussion Forums	15%
Expository Paper	20 %
Mid-Term Exam	20 %
Final Exam	<u>20 %</u>
	100 %

**B. Attendance & Late Grades for Distance Learners:** Success as a distance learner requires regular attendance to the course management system and to email. Students who do not log in to their Moodle course site by the drop/add deadline will be automatically withdrawn from the course. Every aspect of student participation on the Moodle site is reported by Moodle. Assignments must be completed by the due dates. The student who presents the instructor with an adequate and documented reason for late work will be given an opportunity to make it up. Adequate reasons involve circumstances beyond the student's control. It is the responsibility of the student to make the necessary arrangements to make up missed assignments, including exams. If an adequate reason is not given and/or arrangements are not made, the grade for the assignment/exam may be reduced.

**C. Beacon University Plagiarism Policy:** According to the American Heritage Dictionary, 2nd College Edition, plagiarism is defined as taking and using "as one's own the writings or ideas of another." Plagiarism shall include failure to use quotation marks or other conventional markings around material quoted from another source. Plagiarism shall also include paraphrasing a specific passage from a source without indicating accurately what that source is. Plagiarism shall further include letting another person compose or rewrite a student's written assignment. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will be subject to a range of penalties up to, and including, dismissal from the University. All incidents of academic dishonesty are to be reported by the faculty member to the Academic Vice President.

## **XI. COURSE PROFESSOR:**

**Name:** Larry Asplund

### **Degrees:**

B.A., Philosophy and Biblical Studies  
 M.A., Biblical Literature  
 D.Min., Leadership and Spiritual Formation

**Faculty Rank:** Assistant Professor  
**Office Phone:** 706.323.5364. ex. 256  
**E-Mail:** larry.asplund@beacon.edu; lkageorgia@gmail.com  
**Office Hours on Campus:** 8-5, Monday through Friday

## **XII. COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Introductions and Surveys**

- Anderson, G. W. *A Critical Introduction to the Old Testament*. London: Duckworth, 1974.
- Archer, Gleason. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1964. (Conservative)
- Bruce, F. F. *Israel and the Nations*. London: Paternoster Press, 1963. (Conservative)
- Childs, B.S. *Introduction to the Old Testament Scriptures*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.
- Eissfeldt, Otto. *The Old Testament: an Introduction*. Trans. P. R. Ackroyd. New York: Harper & Row, 1965. (very liberal)
- Francisco, Clyde T. *Introducing the Old Testament*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1977.
- Geisler, Norman. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977. (Conservative: popular - but brief)
- Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1969. (Conservative: most exhaustive)
- Hughes, Gerald and Stephen Travis. *Harper's Introduction to the Bible*. New York: Harper & Row, 1981.
- Hummel, Horace. *The Word Becoming Flesh*.
- Jenson, Irving L. *Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament*. (popular - usually does not deal with the critical problems)
- Kitchen, K. A. *Ancient Orient and the Old Testament*. Chicago: Inter-Varsity Press, 1966. (Conservative)
- LaSor, William. *Old Testament Survey*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1982.
- Laurin, Robert B. *The Laypersons Introduction to the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Judson Press, 1991.
- Merril, Eugene. *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*. Nunley, NJ: Craig Press, 1966. (Conservative)
- Payne, J. Barton. *An Outline of Hebrew History*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1954. (Conservative)
- Raven, John. *Old Testament Introduction*.
- Young, Edward J. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1949. (Conservative)
- Watts, J. Wash. *Old Testament Teaching*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1967. (Conservative)

### *Commentaries on the Pentateuch*

- Cole, R. Dennis. *Numbers*. New American Commentary, ed. E. Ray Clendenen. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000.

- Cole, R. Alan. *Exodus: An Introduction & Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, ed. D. J. Wiseman. London: Tyndale Press, 1973.
- Gaebelein, Frank, ed. *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vols. 2-3.
- Hamilton, Victor P. *Handbook of the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1982.
- Harrison, R. K. *Leviticus: An Introduction & Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, ed. D. J. Wiseman. London: Tyndale Press, 1980.
- Kidner, Derek. *Genesis: An Introduction & Commentary*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, ed. D. J. Wiseman. London: Tyndale Press, 1967.
- Mathews, Kenneth A. *Genesis 1-11:26*. New American Commentary, ed. E. Ray Clendenen. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.
- Merrill, Eugene H. *Deuteronomy*. New American Commentary, ed. E. Ray Clendenen. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- Rooker, Marker F. *Leviticus*. New American Commentary, ed. E. Ray Clendenen. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000.
- Sailhamer, John H. *The Pentateuch As Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.
- Stigers, Harold G. *A Commentary on Genesis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976.
- Wenham, Gordon J. *The Book of Leviticus*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament, ed. R. K. Harrison. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1979.
- Whybray, R. Norman. *Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1995.

### **Archaeology**

- Albright, W. F. *Archaeology and the Religion of Israel*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1953.
- Thompson, J.A. *The Bible and Archaeology*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1962.
- Unger, Merrill. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Zondervan Publishing, 1954.  
(Conservative)
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Ungers Bible Handbook*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984.

### **History**

- Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1959.  
(Liberal)
- Edersheim, Alfred. *The Bible History of the Old Testament*.
- Harrison, R.K. *A History of Old Testament Times*. London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1957. (Conservative)
- Hester, H. I. *Heart of Hebrew History*.
- Isserlin, B. S. J. *The Israelites*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1998.
- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *A History of Israel from the Bronze Age through the Jewish Wars*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998. (Conservative: excellent)
- Pfeiffer, Charles. *Old Testament History*.
- Schultz, Samuel. *Old Testament Speaks*. New York: Harper & Bros., 1960.  
(Conservative)
- Unger, Merrill F. *Israel and the Aramaeans of Damascus*. London: James Clarke & Co., 1957.

Wood, Leon. *Survey of Israel's History*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970.  
(Conservative)

**Other Helpful Books for Old Testament Study.**

Aharoni, Yohanan. *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*. Rev. ed.  
Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1979.

Archer, Gleason. *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982.

Botterweck, G. Johannes and Ringgren, eds. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. 11 vols. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans.

Cate, Robert L. *Old Testament Roots for New Testament Faith*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1982.

Dyrness, William. *Themes in Old Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1979.

Gaebelein, Frank, ed. *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 1. "Introductory Articles."

Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer, and Bruce Waltke, eds. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980.

Kitchen, Kenneth. *The Ancient Orient and the Old Testament*.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Bible in Its World*.

McDowell, Josh. *More Evidence that Demands A Verdict*.

Smith, Ralph L. *Old Testament Theology: Its History, Method, and Message*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993.

Wood, Leon. *The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament*.

**Videos**

Vanderlann, Ray. *That They World May Know*. Colorado Springs, CO: Focus On the Family, 1998.