

## **The Pentateuch** - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

The Pentateuch is best understood as a “five-volume” book with two basic divisions, Genesis 1-11 and Genesis 12-Deuteronomy 34.

In view of the fall of humankind and the broken fellowship between God and humanity, the first division poses the question, “How can that relationship be repaired or restored?” The second division then provides an answer, or at least a partial answer, to the human dilemma depicted in Genesis 1-11.

The solution is rooted in the idea of covenant bonding between God and Abram in Genesis 12:1-3.

The Abrahamic Covenant is the unifying theological theme of the Pentateuch.

### **The Literary Plan of the Pentateuch**

Genesis 1-11:	Creation, fall, and judgment
Genesis 12-50:	Covenant promise, election of Abraham, and providential preservation of his family
Exodus:	Miraculous deliverance of Yahweh’s people from bondage in Egypt, covenant relationship expanded to Israel as his people at Sinai, and the law given as a theocratic charter for Israel
Leviticus:	Expansion of covenant law for the purpose of holiness among the people of Yahweh, since his will dwell in their midst
Numbers:	Testing, purging, and purifying of Yahweh’s covenant people in the Sinai wilderness wandering
Deuteronomy:	Covenant renewal and the second law-giving as preparation for entry into the land of the promise by the second generation of Yahweh’s people

### **Narrative Structure of the Pentateuch**

Genesis 1-11:	Primeval prologue
Genesis 12-50:	Accounts of the patriarchs and matriarchs
Exodus 1:1-12:30:	Israel in Egypt
Exodus 12:31-18:27:	Israelite exodus from Egypt, journey to Mount Sinai
Exodus 19:1-Numbers 10:10:	Israel encamped at Mount Sinai
Numbers 10:11-12:16:	Desert trek from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea
Numbers 13:1-19:22:	Israel encamped at Kadesh-Barnea
Numbers 20:1-21:35:	Desert trek from Zin to Mount Hor to plains of Moab
Numbers 22-Deut. 34:	Israel encamped on Moab