

## **TORAH: TO SHOOT STRAIGHT** **Genesis through Deuteronomy**

**All Scripture is God-breathed** and is **useful** for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3.16-17

And we have **the word of the prophets** made more certain, and **you will do well to pay attention to it**, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1.19-21

The term Torah, "teaching, instruction," derives from the root "to shoot (an arrow)," and thus refers to that which "hits the mark." Early tradition has the Torah including the books of Genesis through Deuteronomy. These books are also called "The Five Books of Moses" or the "Pentateuch," which has the meaning of "five books."

### **GENESIS – 3.15; 12.1-9; 15.1-6; 18.1-19; 26.1-6**

Genesis was written for the people of Israel, who had just been redeemed out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses. The book includes events from the creation of the world to the death of Joseph in Egypt somewhere around 1800 B.C.

The general purpose of Genesis is to preserve an accurate record of the beginnings of the human race and the Hebrew nation. More specifically, it is designed to record man's initial rebellion against God's rule and the beginnings of his redemptive program through Israel.

### **EXODUS – 2.23-24; 19.1-20.21; 34.1-7; 40.34-35**

The book of Exodus was written to recount the deliverance of the nation of Israel to a people who were extremely stubborn, sinful, and complaining. They had seen the deliverance of God and his miraculous salvation, and now they had forgotten and turned against him to serve other gods. Exodus was written to bring the people back to God.

### **LEVITICUS – 19.1; 1 Peter 1.13-16**

The events recorded in the book of Leviticus took place at the foot of Mt. Sinai. The time period goes from the setting up of the tabernacle to Israel's departure from Sinai about one month later (Exodus 40.17; Numbers 10.11).

Leviticus gives the details of how a believer could live in the presence of God and enjoy his blessings. It is designed to clarify both what is and what is not pleasing to God. The largest portion of the book describes how a person can attain forgiveness and restoration after breaking one of God's commands.

### **NUMBERS – 11.1; 12.1; 13.1-33; 14.2, 11, 17-25; 16.1-3**

The historical events recorded in Numbers began one month after the completion of the tabernacle (Numbers 1.1; Exodus 40.17). It then takes the reader through nearly forty years of wilderness wanderings and ends on the plains of Moab near the Jordan River.

The book of Numbers lets us know that Israel was God's army and that God's people would take the Promised Land by means of military force. They would serve as God's means of judgment upon the wicked people living in Canaan. It also shows us that while God's people can sin and be disciplined; his promises for blessing are ultimately unstoppable.

### **DEUTERONOMY – 6.4-12; 7.7-9; 17.14-20; 30.11-20; 18.15; 34.10-12; Acts 3.17-26**

The trip from Sinai to Palestine, which could have been done in two weeks, was lengthened to forty years because of Israel's disobedience. Within Deuteronomy we have the restatement of the covenant, which included the law, for the new generation of Israel, and this took place on the plains of Moab across from the Jordan River from Jericho (Deuteronomy 1.5; Numbers 36.13).

The book of Deuteronomy was written to present the connection between the Israel of Egypt and the Israel of the Promised Land, between the giving of the Law at Sinai to the application of the Law in the Promised Land. The three sermons given by Moses were to remind the nation of the past and to prepare them for the future.