

Mid-Morning
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Themes and Threads of the Bible: The Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy)

Bible is derived from the Greek *biblion*, meaning “book” or “roll,” derived from *Byblos*, the papyrus plant that grew in marshes and riverbanks. It was cut into one-foot strips and dried in the sun. Next the papyrus was laid in horizontal rows with vertical columns glued to the horizontal rows that were smoother and used as the writing surface. Strips were glued together to form a scroll up to thirty feet in length. It is the inspired, inerrant Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5-6). Along with Christ, the Bible is God’s specific revelation to His people. Let’s examine the themes and threads of the Divine’s historical benchmark, evidenced in 25,000 handwritten manuscripts.

Old Testament

The sections of the Old Testament include the:

- Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy),
- Historical Books (Joshua – Esther),
- Writings (Job – Song of Songs), and the
- Prophets (Isaiah – Malachi).

Let’s look at the Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

Genesis notes it is the written Account of Adam’s Line (Genesis 5:1). The Pentateuch, as well as the New Testament, teaches us Moses wrote the Law (Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 31:9; 31:22; Mark 10:5). This Book of the Law was discovered in the temple (2 Kings 22:8).

Genesis

- I. Creation (Genesis 1-2)
- II. Fall (Genesis 3-6)
- III. Flood (Genesis 7-9)
- IV. Rebuilding (Genesis 10-11)
- V. Patriarchs and Joseph (Genesis 12-50)

Key verses:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

“The LORD had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you’” (Genesis 12:1-3).

Exodus

- I. Bondage (Exodus 1-12:36)
- II. Freedom (Exodus 12:37-18:27)
- III. Laws (Exodus 19-40)

Key Verse:

“You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3).

Leviticus

- I. Understanding (Leviticus 1-16)

- Offerings (Leviticus 1-7)
- Leaders (Leviticus 8-15)
- Forgiveness (Leviticus 16)
- II. Obedience (Leviticus 17-27)

Key Verses:

“I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy” (Leviticus 11:45).

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD” (Leviticus 19:18).

Numbers

- I. Preparations for the Promised Land (Numbers 1-10:10)
- II. Barriers (Numbers 10:11-21:35)
- III. Moab (Numbers 22-36)

Key Verses:

“The LORD said to Moses, ²³ ‘Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: ²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:22-26).

Deuteronomy

- I. A treaty between God and His people, “Do this or die.”
- II. Preamble (Deuteronomy 1:1-5)
- III. Historical Prologue (Deuteronomy 1:6-4:49)
- IV. Stipulations (Deuteronomy 5:1-26:19)
- V. Blessings and Curses (Deuteronomy 27:1-30:20)
- VI. Succession (Deuteronomy 31:1-34:12)

Key Verses:

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

“This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob” (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

Love is used thirty times in Deuteronomy.

Street Smarts for The Restoration Road

The first five books of the Bible reveal our Creator’s heart of love, redemption, and restoration. Memorize the key verses that will best shape your heart to be like God’s. Recite them each day. Ask God in prayer how He wants you to live out His love, redemption, and restoration to those you encounter. Perhaps, it is time to reconcile with your spouse, your child, your parents, your siblings, or a former friend or business

associate. Maybe you need to bring more grace space in your relationships, allowing those closest to you to fall short without retribution. Take steps today to seek forgiveness, let go of a grudge, or offer a radical act of self-sacrificial love, reflecting the heart of your gracious Redeemer and Restorer. His Spirit will make you and your relationships new again.