

OLD TESTAMENT

Law

August 5, 2018

Genesis 1: 1-5;

Numbers 1: 1-4

GENESIS

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

NUMBERS

The First Census of Israel

1The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying: ²Take a census of the whole congregation of Israelites, in their clans, by ancestral houses, according to the number of names, every male individually; ³from twenty years old and upwards, everyone in Israel able to go to war. You and Aaron shall enrol them, company by company. ⁴A man from each tribe shall be with you, each man the head of his ancestral house.

Are you ready to take a quick look at the OLD TESTAMENT? The Hebrew Scriptures. The Bible: not a book but a library... CHECK OUT the image on the screen ... the books on a shelf ...

We have five weeks to cover the five sections of the OLD Testament part of this library:

LAW

HISTORY

POETRY

MAJOR Prophets

MINOR Prophets

Our Bible, A library of books to teach us to live with GOD Loving us!

This First part of the Library is called LAW ... TORAH sometimes the Pentateuch. THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Named the Torah or the Law section as it is the core of teaching about the earliest Patriarchs and Matriarchs of the faith for Forefathers/ and foremothers of the faith ... How the LORD GOD ALMIGHT (or ELOHIM ADONI ... or YHWH) came to be known to the people...

Special thank you to my Dad, the Rev. Olon Rex Lindemood, who said early and often in my life ... **“the Bible is not a science book and it is not a manual for living / the Bible is a love story of God reaching to all of us everyday.”**

GENESIS One begins with the wonder of GOD Creating the heavens and the earth ...

⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

CLASSIC Hebrew language poetry that speaks of our God creating all that is GOOD and all that is beautiful for the partnership with we human beings...

Closely in chapter two the Man and Woman are created ... ADAM and EVE ... and a magical story of the wonder of GOD's desire for human beings to share the beauty of creation ... and the absolute inability of human beings to live peacefully and contently with Creation / each other / and GOD ... so ... classic Christian thinking calls this the fall of humanity from the beauty of God's creation as we have a propensity to sin (falling short) missing the mark of God's creation hopes!

And thus begins the story of God's desire to restore the love relationship Human beings were created to maintain in this world ... God loving us ... eager for our love in return ...

God invites us with the stories of
Abraham and Sarah /
Issac and Rebecca /
Jacob and Rachael

We hear in the stories of these how the LORD wants us to trust and experience the love that is available to us!

GENESIS 17:

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

So ... We cling to these stories of the origins of our faith filled walk with God.

Our Bible, A library of books to teach us to live with GOD Loving us!

In EXODUS we start to hear the story of Moses ... the Law giver ... EXODUS 3:

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, **God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!'** And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶He said further, **'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.'** And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

The LORD's introduction to all of us happens in this moment ... the LORD says ... I am who I am. OR THE GREAT "I AM." ... YHWH!

And Moses is the bringer of this introduction and assists the people of the promise to Abraham and Sarah ... this chosen understanding of the people ...

And the LAWS emerge!

EXODUS 20:

Then God spoke all these words:

*2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have **no other gods before me.***

*4 You **shall not make for yourself an idol**, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on*

the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

*7 **You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God**, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.*

*8 **Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.** ⁹For six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.*

*12 **Honour your father and your mother**, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.*

*13 **You shall not murder.***

*14 **You shall not commit adultery.***

*15 **You shall not steal.***

*16 **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.***

*17 **You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.***

TEN COMMANDMENTS ...

Our Bible, A library of books to teach us to live with GOD Loving us!

Then LEVITICUS ... simply goes off and establishes LAWS that are too many to number ... which puts us in these earliest stories of the wandering of the patriarchs / MOSES taking the people out of Egypt and into the wilderness ... the EXODUS experience and the trips to the mountain for the Law ... the establishment of the Priests and the Law codes to many to number ...

Leviticus 1:1

The Lord summoned Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying: ²Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When any of you bring an offering of livestock to the Lord, you shall bring your offering from the herd or from the flock.

Our Bible, A library of books to teach us to live with GOD Loving us!

The BOOK of NUMBERS continues:

⁵These are the names of the men who shall assist you:

From **Reuben**, Elizur son of Shedeur.

⁶ From **Simeon**, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.

⁷ From **Judah**, Nahshon son of Amminadab.

⁸ From **Issachar**, Nethanel son of Zuar.

⁹ From **Zebulun**, Eliab son of Helon.

¹⁰ From the sons of Joseph:

from **Ephraim**, Elishama son of Ammihud;

from **Manasseh**, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur.

¹¹ From **Benjamin**, Abidan son of Gideoni.

¹² From **Dan**, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai.

¹³ From **Asher**, Pagiel son of Ocran.

¹⁴ From **Gad**, Eliasaph son of Deuel.

¹⁵ From **Naphtali**, Ahira son of Enan.

¹⁶These were the ones chosen from the congregation, the leaders of their ancestral tribes, the heads of the divisions of Israel.

¹⁷Moses and Aaron took these men who had been designated by name, ¹⁸and on the first day of the second month they assembled the whole congregation together. They registered themselves in their clans, by their ancestral houses, according to the number of names from twenty years old and upwards, individually, ¹⁹as the Lord commanded Moses. So he enrolled them in the wilderness of Sinai.

The twelve tribes of ISRAEL are established
We hear them as the twelve sons of Jacob ...

Our Bible, A library of books to teach us to live with GOD Loving us!

Deuteronomy is the continual story of the
People ISRAEL ... who we call the Jews and
their establishment into the promised Land...

Deuteronomy 6:

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The first five books of the Bible ... the Library
of our God's Love for us!

SO WHAT?

FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

SO WHAT?

Simply the opening stories of our family of faith
the family of GOD ... these are our stories that
bring us meaning ... and these are our rules ...
and this ... this is how GOD loves us and we
are blessed to live as those loved by God...

Well ... Knowing the stories of faith and the
stories of our beginnings and the beauty of
God's creation of all of us is enough!

SO What? ...

Our Bible, A library of books to teach us to live with GOD Loving us!

For the Beauty of the Earth

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

6. For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.