

Five Steps to Maturity

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I. Introduction. Text: Genesis-Deuteronomy.

II. Genesis: the book of beginnings.

- A. It opens with the fact that we are living in a universe.
- B. The Bible deals with man in relationship to the universe
- C. Man is made to be a creature of faith—he cannot help but believe.
- D. The story of the patriarchs shows the desperate need of God in man's life.
 - 1. Abraham shows the need of God as supplier.
 - 2. Isaac shows the need of God as stimulator.
 - 3. Jacob shows the need of God as bodyguard.
 - 4. Joseph shows the need of God as deliverer.

III. Exodus: the story of the response to God's need.

- A. It is the story of redemption.
- B. Incidents.
 - 1. The Passover.
 - 2. The parting of the Red Sea.
 - 3. The giving of the Law at Sinai.
- C. Freedom and forgiveness are wholly God's activity.
- D. When man is redeemed, he comes under the control of another.

IV. Leviticus: the book of instruction.

- A. This is instruction that is designed to make all that God is available to man so that all of man would be available to God.
- B. The theme is access to God.
- C. The tabernacle is God dwelling in the midst of His people.
- D. Leviticus teaches...

1. Representation.
2. Adequacy.
3. Faith in action.

V. Numbers: the failure of God's people to respond to His care.

VI. Deuteronomy: the second law.

- A. The law was given as a schoolmaster.
- B. The law first teaches that we are sinful.
- C. The law secondly teaches us that we are helpless.

VII. The Pentateuch.

A. The first books of the Bible bring us to the edge of the land—Moses could only bring them to the edge because he represents the law and could only bring them so far. Joshua representing salvation had to bring them into the land.

B. Christ is our life.

C. The pattern of the Pentateuch is repeated all throughout the Bible—the feasts, the Psalms, etc.

1. A picture of the need.
2. A movement to meet the need.
3. An instruction of access to God.
4. A failure to meet the requirements.
5. A crushing of self-effort.

Application questions:

1. How does Genesis demonstrate the need of man?

2. Which book of the Pentateuch stands out to you? Why?

3. How have you seen the pattern that the Pentateuch demonstrates in your own life? Be specific.
