

**TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR GOD**  
**MAJOR THEMES OF THE BIBLE**  
**THE PENTATEUCH**

**OPENING:**

**I. THE PENTATEUCH**

- a. Also known as the “Torah” by the Hebrews
- b. Contains the first five books of the bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
- c. Spans from Adam & Eve in the Garden to Noah’s Ark, to Moses parting the Red Sea, to the death of Moses
- d. Moses was the author

**II. GENESIS**

- a. Means origin, birth, generation
- b. This book’s theme is about beginnings and reveals the origin of the Universe; tells us about the beginning of everything
- c. It introduces us to our Creator and puts God’s majesty and power on display
- d. Shows the steps taken by God toward the formation of theocracy
  - i. Theocracy, is an old form of government that is run by religious leaders, claiming to be directed by God or divinely blessed
  - ii. There is no separation of church and state here, and oftentimes, citizens of other faiths are either excluded or expelled
- e. Genesis reveals the plan of God to have a people of His own, people that are set apart for relationship and worship
- f. This book offers the basic reasons why redemption is necessary
- g. Explains the angelic and human fall from relationship with God
- h. Overriding message here is that we cannot save ourselves from sin, salvation is essential, and God had to act on our behalf (His freewill); redemption is necessary.

### **III. EXODUS**

- a. God again demonstrates His authority, power, and strength
  - i. Through miracles.
  - ii. Through dominion over the natural world (plagues, frogs, elements); and
  - iii. Recognizing the hearts of people
  - iv. God will redeem
- b. Through Moses, God reveals himself to the people of Israel
  - i. He reveals that He is actively involved with every aspect of human life
  - ii. Working out the redemption of humankind
  - iii. And shows that time and events are under His control.
- c. God makes an everlasting covenant with His people
  - i. He establishes the Tabernacle, a place for worship
  - ii. He provides “The Law” to show the Israelites their inability to completely follow it
- d. This book shows the people their need for God and their need to comply with the statutes of acceptance
- e. Deliverance is essential for all that choose to be in a relationship with God.
- f. The first Passover; we see a clear picture of the sacrifice necessary for redemption (Jesus – the perfect spotless lamb)
  - i. NOTE: The Israelites were so oppressed by the Egyptians that they gladly followed God in their desperation
- g. This book shows the depth of depravity of humankind in the way the Egyptians ruled over and abused the Israelites.

### **IV. LEVITICUS**

- a. This book reveals the purity of God
- b. Provides strict instructions for approaching, worshiping, and praying to God
- c. Teaches God’s people about holy living and worship; everything from sexual relations, to handling food and instructions for worshiping.
- d. Reveals the void between the holiness of God and humankind
- e. MAJOR THEME is the holiness of God and how our holiness is essential

- f. Describes how we can be in a relationship with God through holy living and worship
- g. Leaves the reader with a dilemma: “If I lack holiness, how can I be in a relationship with God?”
- h. Points to future actions coming from God on our behalf

V. **NUMBERS**

- a. MAJOR THEME: God’s Perseverance
  - i. Records the experiences of the Israelites while traveling through the wilderness
  - ii. And it gives the reason for their wanderings: lack of faith and disobedience which caused them to wander until that generation had died off
- b. This book is a relative account of the stubbornness of the Israelites and demonstrates that the faithfulness and protection of God who outweighs the stubbornness of the nation
- c. This book shows that God’s people were rarely satisfied, and it also shows God’s tremendous patience and understanding
  - i. God sees our hearts – Korah defied Moses
  - ii. God is a God of Justice; He demands obedience and humility
  - iii. God trains His people through hardship
  - iv. THEME FOR TODAY is perseverance is ESSENTIAL for a relationship with God
  - v. God demands justice and there are consequences. He lets us choose at our expense (only Joshua and Caleb survived the wilderness experience)
- d. NUMBERS 20:12 – “But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”
  - i. All are subject to the holiness of God
  - ii. We are responsible for revering God publicly – showing that God is holy
  - iii. Obedience is not an option
- e. NUMBERS 25:4 – “The Lord said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the Lord’s fierce anger may turn away from Israel.” So

Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your people who have yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor."

- i. A relationship with God demands complete trust in who He is and how He acts.
- ii. DO NOT obey God out of a legalistic form of obligation; DO obey Him out of a love for Him with all your heart, mind and soul and will.

## **VI. DEUTERONOMY**

- a. MAJOR THEME: God is a God of Preparation
  - i. Accounts occur in Moab, 40 days before the Israelites enter the Promised Land
  - ii. Moses issues the call to obedience and reviews God's covenants
  - iii. Moses recounts the experiences of the past 40 years in the wilderness, restates the Ten Commandments, and gives the Israelites guidelines to follow regarding different aspects of life:
    - A. Look out for others,
    - B. Ignore false prophets,
    - C. Give generously.
- b. God reminds His people of their covenant between God and Israel
  - i. That He ALONE is worth of worship, praise and obedience, and He continually is preparing the way for His children's redemption
- c. The Covenant between God and His people is solidified by our adherence and acceptance of the authorities that God has established to carry out His Will
  - i. God has been doing this from the beginning
  - ii. Reminds us that we must "choose" to live a holy life with God because of who He is, not out of obligation or manipulation.
- d. Also marks the end of the Pentateuch