

The First Five Books of the Bible

The Torah, the first five books of the Bible, is the foundation of all that follows. And every word of the Bible is important. In Hebrew even, the names of the books within the Bible are important. But they are different in our English Bible translations and as such we miss their significance. The translators, over the centuries, didn't just take the original Hebrew names of these books and translate them, they changed the names to reflect what they thought was the subject of the book. This changed the cultural and linguistic understanding of these important writings. In the Hebrew Bible, the names of these books are derived from a word or phrase within the first verse. In Hebrew, names are an important part of the culture and language. In the Bible, the meaning of names is part of the substance of the narrative which contains them. With this insight, let's look at the Hebrew names of the first five books of the Bible and see what they mean along with some other powerful revelations concern the Torah and the Book of Psalms.

The Book of Genesis in the Hebrew Bible is called "Bresheet", which means "**In the Beginning**".

The Book of Exodus in the Hebrew Bible is called "Shemot" which means "**These are the names**".

The Book of Leviticus in the Hebrew Bible is called "Vayikra" which means "**Called out**".

The Book of Numbers in the Hebrew Bible is called "Bamidbar" which means "**In the wilderness**".

The Book of Deuteronomy in the Hebrew Bible is called "Devarim" which means "**These are His Words**".

Putting these meanings together, we get an awesome summary of the Torah.

In the Beginning / These are the Names / The LORD called out / In the Wilderness / And these are His words.

Isn't that awesome!!!

With that insight... How many times have you read a certain Psalm and it touched your heart? Did you know that the Book of Psalms is divided into five sections and each one corresponds with one of the first five books of your Bible which is called in Hebrew, The Torah?



Psalms 1-41 - The Genesis Book

Concerning man and creation

The counsels of God concerning Himself.

All blessings bound up in obedience [Gen 1:28]

Obedience is man's "tree of life" [Ps 1:3 with Gen 2:16].

Disobedience brought ruin [Ps 2 with Gen 3].

This ruin was repaired by the Son of Man [*Yeshua*] in His atoning work as the seed of the woman [Ps 8 with Gen 3:15].

This first book concludes in Psalms 41:13 with a Benediction upon Israel and a double "Amen". "Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen".

Genesis is the beginning. In this book we learn that there is a God who is the Potter and we [*man*] are the clay [*His Creation*]. We learn that each one of us were created with a purpose.

Psalms 42-72 - The Exodus Book

Concerning Israel as a Nation / deliverance and salvation

The counsels of God concerning Israel's Ruin, Israel's Redeemer, and Israel's Redemption [Ex 15:13].

Thirst for water [Ps 42 with Ex 17].

Book two begins with Israel cry for deliverance and ends with Israel's king reigning over the redeemed nation.

The book concludes with a Benediction and a double "Amen". And blessed *be* his glorious name forever: and let the whole earth be filled *with* his glory; Amen, and Amen.

Exodus is where we learn what happens when man walks away from God and becomes conformed to the ways of the world. We learn about the lamb that delivers.

Psalms 73-89 - The Leviticus Book

Concerning worship and the sanctuary

The counsels of God concerning the sanctuary in its relation to man, and the sanctuary in relation to Yehuah.

The sanctuary, congregation, assembly, or Zion, are referred to in nearly every Psalm in book three.

The book concludes with a Benediction and a double "Amen" Blessed *be* the LORD for evermore. Amen, and Amen.

Leviticus is where we learn how to approach God through sacrifice and how to live a sanctified [*set-apart*] life from the world.

From the book of Leviticus – God’s instruction book in ‘holiness’ – came the first lessons for every Jewish child!

Imagine your five-year-old memorizing lessons from the book of Leviticus today! The Jews understood the importance of instructing their youth in the character of God’s holiness, because the living God had always placed a high value on education focused on His Word. His covenant children had to be able to read, lest they forget His commandments and fall into personal sin and national decay.

They begin with Leviticus in order to teach children about the different categories of sin, and the respective types of offerings that had to be brought for each one.

Psalms 90-106 - The Numbers Book

Concerning Israel & the Nations / wilderness wanderings

The counsels of God concerning the earth, showing that there is no hope or rest for the nations of the Earth apart from Yehuah.

This book begins with the prayer of Moses [*the man in the wilderness*] Psalms 90 and closes with Israel's rebellions in the wilderness [Ps 106].

This book concludes with a Benediction and "Amen, Hallelujah". Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.

Numbers is where we also learn about the dangers of assimilation and walking after the flesh. We learn about patterns that we enter into because of bad choices made.

Psalms 107-150 – The Deuteronomy Book

Concerning God and His Word

The counsels of God concerning His Word, showing that all blessing for man, all blessings for Israel, all blessings for the earth and the nations are bound up with living on the Word of God [*De 8:3*].

Disobedience to God’s words were the source of man's sorrows, Israel's dispersion, the sanctuary's ruin, and earth's miseries.

The book begins with Psalms 107, and in verse 20 we read, "He sent His Word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions", and it concludes with five Psalms [*one for each of the five books*], each Psalm beginning and ending with "Praise Ye the LORD".

Deuteronomy is where we are reminded of how important the Word is and Praise God for it.

Ps 56:4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

So, why is our heart touched when we read the Psalms?

It has been pointed out that the book of Psalms is the book of human emotions. Indeed, every experience of man's heart is reflected in this book. No matter what mood you may be in, some psalm will reflect that mood. For this book records every one of man's emotions and experiences.

For example, if you are fearful, read Psalms 23, 56 or 91.

If you are discouraged, read Psalm 42.

If you are feeling lonely, read Psalm 62 or 71.

If you are oppressed, with a sense of sinfulness, read Psalm 51, written after David's double sin of adultery and murder; and Psalm 32, a great expression of confession and forgiveness.

If you are worried or anxious, read Psalm 37 and 73.

If you are angry, read Psalm 13 or 58.

If you are resentful, read Psalm 77 or 94.

If you are happy and want some words to express your happiness, read Psalm 66 or 92.

If you feel forsaken, read Psalm 88.

If you are grateful and would like to say it, read Psalm 40.

If you are doubtful and your faith is beginning to fail, read Psalm 119.

We could go on and on, because all 150 psalms have to do with life experiences. But these should suffice to stir our hearts to walk through the Psalms.



The Greek mindset stresses education, speaking skills, oratory, relaying information from mind to mind, belief systems, doctrines, rules and organizations. This mindset often produces trained professionals and spectators, a teacher who imparts knowledge to a room full of students. The character of the teacher or the student is not important at all.

The Hebrew mindset on the other hand emphasizes living, being, participation in the learning process, mentoring, discipling, leadership by personal example, doing the thing rather than just talking about it. This manner of living tends to promote transparency of life between teacher and student, fellowship together in a continual learning process that affects life. It has to do with love, with relationships, with acceptance and forgiveness. It produces character.

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