

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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The Pentateuch

Introduction:

The first five books in the Bible are commonly referred to by the Greek word *Pentateuch* which means five books. These books cover a span of approximately 3000 years in the history of man. We read the historical account of the creation of our existence to Israel coming to the Jordan River preparing to enter into the promised land of Canaan. The theme of each book can be summarized by two words. Genesis reveals God's promises. The book of Exodus reveals God's mercy, Leviticus reveals God's Holiness, Numbers God's wrath, and Deuteronomy God's patience. The great theme that runs through these five books is the origin, identity, consequence, and remedy for sin. These early books in the Bible teach us that sin separates one from God (see Deut. 23:13-14). We develop a greater sense of faith and consequential conviction by studying these books. After completing a study of the Pentateuch one comes away with a sense of hope in Jesus and an attitude of detesting and abhorrence toward sin (see Deut. 7:26).

Sin

The word "sin" is first mentioned at Genesis 4:7. God warns Cain that sin is likened unto a stalking animal waiting to pounce upon its victim (see also I Pet. 5:8). This stalking animal came in the form of a snake in the Garden of Eden. God "commanded" Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:16-17). The serpent; however, beguiled Eve and the two partook of the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:1ff). Sin thereby had its entrance into the world. God's holy nature and fellowship could no longer be shared with man (see Deut. 18:13; Lev. 11:44). God's remedy for man's error was to reconcile man to Himself through justification by the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ (Gen. 3:15; Rom. 3:24ff).

The forgiveness of man's sin is the central theme not only of the Pentateuch but the entire Bible. God offered this forgiveness in the form of a promise to Abraham saying, "*in thy seed shall all nations be blessed*" (Gen. 12:3; 18:18; 22:18). We find that God was preaching the gospel message to Abraham on this occasion (Gal. 3:8) and that the seed of Abraham was to be the Christ (Gal. 3:16).

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Herb Sims had a few more visits to the doctors this past week so that his congestive heart failure may be treated. He is still a bit weak; however, he is getting better.

Deirdre Wilson has returned to Abilene to be with her mother who will be undergoing a colonoscopy this week.

Tonight is the **Last Sunday of the Month Singing!** If you have a particular song you would like to have sung get with one of our song leaders.

Adult Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings we are studying the book of James and Wednesday we are studying The Song of Solomon.

Nicolas Long will be doing the preaching this morning.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

Man's Failures

Though God provided hope and the remedy of sin man continued in disobedience. Israel complained (Ex. 16 etc.), practiced idolatry (Deut. 9:6), fornication (Numb. 25:1ff), and displayed a spirit of rebellion (Deut. 1:19-20, 26). We are perplexed when reading of Israel's rebellious spirit. No generation throughout the history of man saw such great signs, wonders, and miracles yet they continued to sin. We asks, Why did the people sin? We may too asks, Why do we sin (Rom. 3:23)? The answer to this question reveals man's responsibility toward the creator of all things. When God commanded Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go that they may worship and sacrifice; the Egyptian responds by saying, "*Who is Jehovah, that I should hearken unto his voice to let Israel go? I know not Jehovah, and moreover I will not let Israel go*" (Ex. 5:1-2). Pharaoh did not recognize God's authoritative power and command. Moses furthermore said, "*Thus saith Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to **humble** thyself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me*" (Ex. 10:3). We sin today in the same manner as Pharaoh and all of the complaining, fornicating, idolatrous, and rebellious Israelites. God gives a command and it is not something that we want to do. When we sin we suggest to God that we do not recognize His authoritative power of command. This is rebellion defined (see Deut. 9:24).

Moses precisely defines sin as doing those things that the Lord has not commanded (Lev. 5:17 see also I Jn. 3:4). A great lesson on Bible authority is revealed in the book of Deuteronomy in relation to sin and its identity. Moses warns Israel against practicing idolatry saying that they needed to pay attention to the things they **heard** and **saw** in Jehovah "*lest ye corrupt yourselves...*" (Read Deut. 4:12-16). The New Testament teaches the same principle through commands, examples, and inference (see Phil. 4:9). Those who practice sin are depicted as being diametrically opposed to God's holy nature. They are corrupt (Deut. 4:16), unclean (Lev. 16:16, 30; Numb. 5:2; Eph. 5:5), defiled (Lev. 18:30; Numb. 5:3; II Cor. 7:1), impure (Lev. 22:21; Numb. 8:21; Titus 1:15), blemished and imperfect (Lev. 16; 21:18-21; 22:21; Heb. 7:18-19), and viewed as trespassers against Jehovah (Numb. 5:6; Gal. 6:1; James 2:). God had a passionate distaste for sin and sinners (Lev. 20:23) as is illustrated by the multiple issues that God viewed as an abomination (see Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Deut. 7:25-26; 18:12; etc). All who seek to please Jehovah will develop the same since of hatred for sin (see Deut. 7:26; Rom. 12:9). Said convicted spirit will not thereby tolerate, spare, conceal, listen to, pity, or give consent to false teachers or practitioners of sin (Deut. 13:8-9; Eph. 5:11; II Jn. 9-11).

(Continued Next Week)

John C. Robertson

Shining as Lights in the World

Without Murmurings and Disputing

I. Introduction and Review

- A. In our series we have been given both hope and direction.
 - i. Direction in that we were told to “work out our own salvation”
 - ii. Hope in the assurance that it “is God who works in you”
- B. But now we have a warning found in Philippians 2: 14 a warning to “Do all things without murmuring or disputing”

II. Murmuring:

- A. Danger of Murmuring
 - i. Murmuring is defined as “to complain in low mumbling tones; to grumble.
 - ii. Israel 1 Cor. 10:10-11
 - iii. Describing apostates Jude 3-4, 16-19
- B. Replace Murmuring with “Thanksgiving”
 - i. Christians have so much to be thankful for
 - a. Salvation
 - b. Assurance of a Heavenly Father

III. Disputing

- A. Danger of Disputing
 - i. Disputing simply means arguing
- B. Attitudes to have 2 Timothy 2: 23-26
- C. Qualities to have Colossians 3: 12-13

IV. Conclusion