

## I. THE PENTATEUCH IN GENERAL

### A. *The Term Pentateuch*

What does the term Pentateuch mean? Any of you who know Greek recognize immediately of course that it is made up of two Greek words, of which the first, Penta, means five — the document of five parts.

The word, Pentateuch, is no longer used by the higher critics. Almost any book written recently by them speaks of “the Hexateuch.” They now use this word in their titles and in their dictionaries. They speak of the Hexateuch, rather than the Pentateuch. Sometimes they speak of the Octateuch. The Hexateuch would be the six-fold and the Octateuch would be the eight-fold book. The Pentateuch is the five-fold division of the books which we call the books of Moses. According to their theory Joshua comes from the same origin as the rest, so they all belong together. The Octateuch adds Judges and a portion of Samuel. This, however, is purely modern theory. The fact is, until the nineteenth century it was universally recognized that the first five books of the Bible were a group by themselves. So when we speak of the Pentateuch we are using a term which represents the fact that this group of books was considered as one group, and was considered as belonging together for at least two thousand years. Whether they were originally thought of as one book which was later divided into five, or whether Moses originally wrote them as separate units, might be a proper question for the higher criticism to consider. But the term *Pentateuch* is the proper place for us to begin. The evidences for the higher criticism do not come from Joshua or from Judges. The evidence must be sought in these five books; then, if proven, it could be extended into the others, but it could not be derived from them. So Pentateuch is a proper term for us to use, even though it has been out of style among the liberals for the last twenty years or more.

The Pentateuch is a group of books which for at least two thousand years have been considered as one collection. Actually they might be considered as one book. Something can be said for the idea that