

II. A SURVEY OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PENTATEUCH

Before we go into this discussion of Deuteronomy or of the contents of the Pentateuch, I am going to give you an outline of the contents of the Pentateuch. We could take a semester on this outline, but I want to rush over it hastily because it is simply introductory to our discussion of the higher Criticism.

A. The World Before Abram (Genesis 1:1 to 11:26)

This is the account of the creation and of God's dealing with the world and the nations as a whole up to the time when He selected one individual to be the beginning of a new group to keep alive the memory of God when mankind as a whole had cast Him out of their attention and preferred to follow their own wicked desires and to follow Satan, the prince of this world.

You will never fully understand everything in this section from Genesis 1:1 to 11:26. It is infinite in its teaching and meaning. One can spend the rest of his life always getting new truth from it. Much of it is surely familiar to everyone here, whether you know anything else about the Pentateuch or not. We merely mention it here and go on to B.

B. The Patriarchal History (Genesis 11:26 to end of book)

The Pentateuch tells about the God of Abram, Isaac, and Jacob: God's dealing with the fathers of the Israelite people are found in Genesis 11:26 to the end of Genesis.

Four-fifths of the book of Genesis is the story of four generations of one family. It revolves around four names. Abraham's history runs from chapter 11:27 to 25:8. The death of Abraham is described in Genesis. His son Isaac is first described in chapter 21 and his death in 35, but there are not fifteen chapters about him. His life overlaps with Abraham by five chapters and then the story of Jacob's life runs from chapter 25 to chapter 50. The account of Abraham and Jacob runs