

onomy he begins with reminding them of God's goodness in the past — a resume of much forgiveness. Then he goes into the law stressing those things which are vital for them to remember permanently or which were vital for them to know as they enter into the Promised Land, which might not have been important to know in the wilderness. Then at the end he has a most wonderful passage of oratory as he urges them to obey God's law and points out the wonderful blessings that God will give if they obey and the terrible punishment which will come upon them if they disobey. So you see the nature of the book of Deuteronomy is utterly different from the nature of any other section of the Pentateuch. But it is a logical capstone to the Pentateuch. It has a proper and reasonable place in the structure of the Pentateuch.

The book of Numbers is not the beginning of the life of the Israelites after the fundamental constitution, but it is still included in the Pentateuch because it is previous to this second great giving of the law and it leads up to it. It shows how the law was given, in order to show how the law was adopted by the people, as well as some details of its application during their wilderness journey.

This then completes our rapid summary, quite hurriedly in some parts, a bit more detailed in other parts. It was given with two purposes. The most important, from the long range viewpoint, is to have you understand the structure of the Pentateuch, which is the very foundation of the Word of God; but then, secondly, to give an idea of those important features of the structure that you must have in mind in order to understand the second important phase of the higher criticism.

The first phase of the higher criticism will occupy us for a month, and during that time we will have little interest in the structure of the Pentateuch, but it will enter into the second phase. Yet I hope that when we get to the second phase you will have well in mind what we have covered in this structure because it is very vital for an understanding of the second phase. I will, of course, assign special reviews at that time but I wish you would get it well in mind now and continue to review it, because then you will understand immediately the bearing and importance of the second phase, though less known among conservative Christians.