

V. The Pentateuch

We are now moving into special introduction although the last few notes have also been in that area...somewhat. General introduction treats mostly text and canon while special introduction treats authorship, authenticity, etc. The critical data somewhat overlaps both. But our study now moves to the sections of the Old Testament and matters thought to be needed for the study of such. In all of this the student must bear in mind the concepts of inspiration and revelation. And once again, this is not so much a course in content as in appreciable facts concerning the work as a whole.

A. The Term: Pentateuch

the "five fingers"

The Pentateuch is a running narrative and we are not certain when the division into five books occurred.. save that we are sure it was ancient. The division was probably one of convenience. The term **torah** (law) is applied especially to the Pentateuch and each individual book is thought to be one fifth of the law and each is accordingly called a **chumash**, a term derived from the Hebrew word for "five". The whole Old Testament is called Taanach, a cryptogram derived from an acrostic made from its parts. The Pentateuch lays a groundwork for the history of God's dealing with Israel. It places the fundamental truths of God's role in history in conspicuous light and it provides a basis in truth for testing later claims of Divine authority.

B. The Books in brief

1. Genesis

The Hebrew title "in the beginning", "when beginning", or "in beginning" tells us that this first book of the Bible notes the beginning of all things material and the arrangement of God and His universe so far as we are concerned. In brief order it outlines human history and sets the background for the rest of the Old Testament.