

The Torah: What is the Story?

Introduction

The *Torah* is the first major section of the *Tanakh*, the Hebrew Scriptures.

- Torah (Law)
- Nevi'im (Prophets)
- Ketuvim (Writings)

It is most commonly translated with the word _____ in English Bibles.

It is a single, unified _____ designed to reveal God's wisdom for a complicated human life.

The *Torah* tells the story of _____.

Beginnings (Gen 1-11)

What are some key terms in Gen 1 you may have misunderstood?

How many times does God speak in Gen 1?

Why is the order evening then morning?

Why is there no end to day 7?

How would you summarize the main idea of Genesis 1:1-2:3?

How would you summarize the main idea of Genesis 2:4-25?

What are some claims of other Ancient Near Eastern creation myths (Atra-Hasis, Enuma Elish, Egypt)?

The Torah: What is the Story?

What is good, and what is bad/evil?

What is wisdom?

Additional notes:

The Torah: What is the Story?

Abraham (Gen 12-25:18)

What is your understanding of Election?

How does Gen 15 (the Hagar episode) influence Gen 16 (circumcision given as a Covenant sign)?

What is the state of Sodom leading up to its destruction?

Read Exodus 34:6-7 (most quoted verses in the Bible). What does the destruction of the world in the Flood and then Sodom and Gomorrah show us about God's character?

Check this link for a great handout on Exodus 34:6-7:

https://d1bsmz3sdiplr.cloudfront.net/media/Study%20Notes/CoG_Exodus_VN_final.pdf

Is Abraham shown to be different at the end of his story than he is at the beginning? If yes, how so?

What does Abraham's story leave us wanting?

Additional notes:

The Torah: What is the Story?

Jacob (Gen 25:19-36:43)

Compare Gen 16:1-3 with 25:21-26. How are Isaac & Rebekah shown to be different from Abraham & Sarah?

Read Gen 25:19-34. As a casting director, what are your character breakdowns for Esau and Jacob?

In Gen 32:24-30, God wounds Jacob in a wrestling match. How many times had God told Jacob he would bless him before this? How does this influence your view on Jacob struggling against God for a blessing?

What does Jacob's story leave us wanting?

Additional notes:

The Torah: What is the Story?

Joseph (37-50)

How does the author initially portray Joseph? What initially fuels his brothers' hatred of him?

How are Reuben and Judah portrayed differently in Gen 37:12-36?

Why does Jacob adopt Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen 48:5-6)? How does the author portray Joseph at the end of his story?

What does Joseph's story leave us wanting?

Additional notes:

The Torah: What is the Story?

Moses (Ex 1-18)

What do the early events of Moses's life (Ex 2:11-22) and his objections to YHWH (Ex 3:10-4:17) show us about his character?

What are some of the events that Moses goes through individually which Israel goes through collectively?

In Ex 4:21, YHWH tells Moses he will make Pharaoh's heart strong-willed. What does YHWH do to harden Pharaoh's heart?

Additional notes:

The Torah: What is the Story?

Key Resources:

The Bible Project (Tim Mackie and John Collins)

The Five Books of Moses (Everett Fox)

The Pentateuch as Narrative (John Sailhamer)

Reading Moses Seeing Jesus: How the Torah Fulfills Its Goal in Yeshua (Seth Postell, Eitan Bar, Erez Soref)

Bearing His Name: Why Sinai Still Matters (Carmen Imes)

Created Equal: How the Bible Broke with Ancient Political Thought (Joshua Berman)

The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible (Michael Heiser)