

Intro to the Pentateuch

Names

- What is the meaning of the Greek word “Pentateuch”? What does it tell us about these books?
- What is the meaning of the Hebrew word “Torah”? What does it tell us about these books? Why does this matter?

History

- How are the Five Books of the Pentateuch related to the historical epochs? Which Epoch(s) does it cover? Which books cover which epochs? What does this tell us about the content of the Pentateuch?
- What is special about the book of Genesis, in terms of its relation to history? Why does this matter?

Books

- Which Bible books make up the Torah? What does this tell us about these books as a whole?

Authorship

- Describe the question and arguments about the authorship of the Pentateuch. What are the possible answers? Why do people hold the different possible answers? What conclusion does the Lecture make? Why? Do you agree? What difference does this make?

Date

- What is the most likely date for the writing of the Pentateuch? Why does this make the most sense?
- What is the relationship between the date of writing and the date of the events covered in the Pentateuch?

Purpose

- Describe the purpose(s) for the writing of the Pentateuch, according to the Lecture? What does this tell us about the situation of the first readers for whom the Pentateuch was written? What does this teach us about the nature and message of the Torah? What does this tell us about what we can gain from reading the Pentateuch today? Why does this matter?