

# Bible as Christ's Testimony.

Session # 19 2024-10-15

Last time: the authorship of Moses. Unanimous witness from the first five books as well as from the OT and NT. Today, about how did Moses know it? What sources may he have used?

## Beginnings of the Bible.

How did Moses write it all? How did he know it all?

- As an eyewitness. From God's revelation. From oral or written sources.

Genesis 5:1 [book], Genesis 10:9 [saying], Genesis 22:14 [saying], Genesis 32:32 [tradition], Genesis 47:26 [statute], Exodus 15:1-18 [song], Exodus 15:20f [song], Exodus 17:14 [testimony], Exodus 24:7 [book], Exodus 24:12, 25:16 [tablets], Numbers 11:26 [register], Numbers 21:14 [another book], Numbers 21:17-18, 27-30 [songs], Deuteronomy 29:21, 30:10, 31:26 [book].

## Writing of different parts.

How did Moses know what to write? Where did he get the materials?

- **Exodus to Deuteronomy.** Deut. 34. Moses time. His own testimonies.
- **Genesis 12-50.** The age of patriarchs. Separated from Moses by a few generations. Exodus 6:16-20. Steinmann - 3 centuries.  
What would be the most important things to pass on to the next generations? God's promises: Gen 12, 13, 15, 17, 22, 25, 35:9-13. Again, in Exodus 3:16-17. Could Moses have used some written testimonies from his forefathers?  
[Consider the case of the city-state of Ebla. Read/translate from p. 42.]
- **Genesis 3-11.** Prehistory. Can there be written testimonies? Ebla. Egypt (Acts 7:22). The development of civilization before the flood. Genesis 5:1.
- **Genesis 1 and 2.** Origins – it is about our identity. The creation vs evolution debate.  
If Moses recorded this account, where did He get it from? Written records? Revelation? Both?
  - **How to think about those chapters?**
    - o It is God's own revelation. Event and account – we have only access to the account. This is how the Triune God begins His communication with us. It is not simplistic or naïve. God speaks in a universally accessible and understandable way. Relates to our experience.
    - o What are the questions this account answer? E.g. mobile phone.  
Who is God? What is this world? Who are we as human beings? Who are we as male and female? Our significance? Why are we here, for what purpose? What are our main callings/ responsibilities entrusted by our God? How to understand creation? How to understand time/Sabbath? How to understand work? How to understand marriage? All of this is in those first few chapters.  
Then Gen 3. Also, about fall, sin, salvation, etc.
    - o **How does this read against the ANE background?**
    - o **How does the Biblical account /worldview compare with these?** This is the most beautiful story.