

PENTATEUCH

I Name and Place in Canon

Pentateuch (from the Greek ΠΕΝΤΕ, five, and ΤΕΥΧΟΣ, ^{tool, instrument} scroll, hence a five-volumed writing) is the name that has been used since the time of Origen (third century A.D.) to describe the first five books of the Old Testament. Among the Jews themselves this unit was known as "The Law", "the book of the law" and the "Five Fifths of the Law." The lines of demarcation between the books of the Pentateuch is not so strongly marked in the Hebrew manuscripts as in the English Bible. The five-fold division is at least as old as the Septuagint Version because the English titles - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy - have been taken from the Latin Vulgate Version which in turn derived them from the Septuagint.

ΤΕΥΧΟΣ was the term applied to the sheath or case in which the five rolls were kept.

Standing at the beginning of the Sacred Canon the record of Divine revelation given to us in the Pentateuch is foundational for all the subsequent revelation of the Bible, and the Gospel itself has its roots in the Pentateuch. Belief in the genuine historicity and reliability and authority of the Pentateuch is fundamental to belief in Christ Himself. Who declared, "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" John 5.46,47. Failure to believe Moses by whom the Law of God was given can only lead to rejection of Christ by whom came grace and truth.

~~Successors declared~~ "If they hear Abraham, who lived before Moses, has left this testimony concerning Moses which came from the lips of our Lord Jesus Christ: "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" Luke 16.31.