

Pentateuch covers a vast period of time

The Pentateuch covers a vast period of time, generally from the **creation of the world** up to the **death of Moses** and the Israelites' preparation to enter the Promised Land.

Here's a breakdown:

- **Genesis:** This book covers the earliest history, starting with creation, the Garden of Eden, the Flood, and then tracing the lineage of humanity through figures like Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (whose name is changed to Israel), and ending with the descendants of Jacob in Egypt. This spans from the very beginning of time (as understood biblically) to the descent of Jacob's family into Egypt.
- **Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy:** These four books focus on the period of the Israelite enslavement in Egypt, their liberation under Moses, the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, their forty years of wandering in the wilderness, and finally, their arrival at the borders of the Promised Land just before Moses' death.

While traditional views often attribute the writing of the Pentateuch to Moses during the Late Bronze Age (around 15th-13th century BCE, with debates on the exact date of the Exodus), modern scholarship generally suggests that the Pentateuch, in its final form, was compiled over centuries, likely reaching its present form in the Persian period (5th century BCE) from earlier oral and written traditions.

Regardless of the precise dating of its composition, the narratives within the Pentateuch itself cover this immense sweep of time, from creation to the threshold of the land of Canaan.