FIRST 5 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

V/O: In a world created by God, shattered by, sin one nation would embark upon an epic journey. One man, one woman, one mistake.

KAI: Can't wait to see how this ends.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL OPENING TITLES

KAI: Hi I'm Kai.

LIBBY: And I’m Libby.

KAI: Welcome to Catholic Central.

LIBBY: Today, we're talking about the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Pentateuch.

KAI: Pentateuch is a Greek term meaning five scrolls or books.

LIBBY: Jewish tradition calls it the Torah, meaning teaching.

MAGICIAN KAI:

Ah, but is it five books or one book?

KAI: It's five separate books, but all the parts actually make up one story. And it's meant to be read that way, as one big saga.

LIBBY: The Pentateuch is not necessarily a strictly historical document, like a modern history book.

KAI: But it is full of poetic truth about God, humanity and our relationship with Him.

LIBBY: Where did it come from? Most Jews and Christians attribute the authorship to Moses.

KAI: Scholars don't all agree, but it's important to remember that back then, books weren't written and mass-produced like they are today. Typically, stories were passed down through oral tradition. So, there's no way to know the exact author.

LIBBY: The first book is Genesis. This is where we get the stories of God creating the universe, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, Noah and the animals being saved on the Ark, and Abraham and Isaac.

KAI: The second book, Exodus, is about God's people fleeing slavery in Egypt.

LIBBY: The next, Leviticus, is a series of laws and rituals prescribed to the Israelites instructing them how to live and worship.

KAI: The fourth book, Numbers, recounts the first census ever taken of God's people, when Moses accounted for all the Israelites. It ends on the plain of Moab, with the Israelites waiting to take possession of the land God promised them.

LIBBY: The last book, Deuteronomy, is a series of speeches Moses gives the people as they're waiting outside the Promised Land … on the threshold, but not quite there.

KAI: So, he knows there's definitely going to be a sequel.

V/O: Pentateuch II: It's a whole New Testament.

LIBBY: You could say that Catholics believe the sequel is the rest of God's great redemption story, which ultimately leads to Jesus' life, death and resurrection, freeing us from the bondage of sin.

KAI: Not that it's not a great story on its own, but Catholics read the whole Bible in the context of Jesus, even the first five books.

LIBBY: For example, take another character from the Pentateuch, Abraham.

KAI: Abe was old and his wife was barren, but God had promised him he'd be the father of many nations.

LIBBY: So, his wife, Sarah, miraculously got pregnant and would have a son named Isaac. Later, God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his only legitimate son.

KAI: Just like Christ eventually carried His Cross, Isaac carried the wood for his own sacrifice.

LIBBY: Lucky for Isaac though, an angel stopped Abraham before things got too dangerous. Still, we see the anguish of a father about to sacrifice his son.

KAI: And how Abraham's love for God was more important than the son he loved more than himself.

LIBBY: Which connects us to God's love for us.

KAI: There are lots of other lessons in the Pentateuch for us today, though.

LIBBY: Take the story of Adam and Eve and their Fall in the Garden. It teaches us about God's love for His creation, His good intentions for humanity, and how we went wrong.

KAI: Which teaches us a little about how, instead of just doing what we know God wants us to do, we can all get selfish and defensive.

LIBBY: Speak for yourself.

KAI: Or how about Moses and the Israelites escaping Pharaoh's army by the parting of the Red Sea?

LIBBY: The Israelites were stuck; it seemed like they had only two choices: fight an unwinnable battle with Pharaoh's army, or return to slavery.

KAI: But God provided a third way. He parted the sea, allowing the Israelites to pass and swallowing up their enemies.

LIBBY: This shows us that even when things seem hopeless, God can provide a way through our trials, whatever they might be.

KAI: And what about this from Leviticus, "Do not dishevel your hair lest you die and bring God's wrath also on the whole community”? Wait.

LIBBY: Or this from Deuteronomy, "If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son, all of his fellow citizens shall stone him to death."

KAI: Mom, I'm sorry.

LIBBY: OK, don't worry. It's important to know that some parts of the Pentateuch were written for a very specific time and culture.

KAI: And even back then God didn't prescribe those rules because He's cruel or weird. God didn't need the rules, the people of Israel did.

LIBBY: The laws were meant to keep them faithful to the one true God, instead of following other false gods or idols. But Christians today live under a new covenant with God. The New Testament says, "Christ ransomed us from the curse of the law."

KAI: So, Christians today don't have to live by the exact same rules the Israelites did back then, but we can still use some reminding to not follow false idols. Whether it's money, sex or popularity.

LIBBY: The Israelites were constantly straying from God's plan for them and suffering the consequences, but we don't have to.

KAI: Even when we feel lost in our own personal deserts we can take their example of what not to do, trusting God and grow in our relationship with him.

LIBBY: For Catholic Central I'm Libby.

KAI: And I'm Kai. Be sure to check out our website CatholicCentral.com and subscribe on our YouTube channel, for more on how to make your own journey epic.

LIBBY: Duh-duh-DA!

© 2019 Family Theater Productions All Rights Reserved