Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy 1

Leviticus

Book of the Levites

- **Concern for "Holiness" (17-26)**
- **Holiness = set apart, associated with "clean" and distinct from profane and unclean**
- **Why clean (kosher) and unclean foods?**
  - Concern for hygiene?
  - Creatures that did not fit in with priestly picture of creation — shellfish do not have scales and fins; pigs do not have cloven hooves, etc. (Bandstra 172, based on Mary Douglas)

Leviticus 2

Samples of Holiness Code

- **19:9-10 — concern for protection of poor and the land**
- **19:18 — love neighbor as oneself**
- **19:33 — concern for hospitality to foreigners**
- **25 — sabbatical year & Jubilee**
  - Ideal is an egalitarian society where God owns the land (25:23)

Samples of Holiness Code 3

Numbers

- Name refers to opening census of the people of Israel
- Reflects J, E, & P sources
- Recounts events that occurred from time at Mt. Sinai to arrival along Jordan river

Numbers 4

Deuteronomy

"D" Source

- Deuteronomy = "second law"
- Recapitulates the story of Exodus as speeches of Moses
- 2 Kings 22-23 — the "discovery" of Deuteronomy and the reforms of Josiah in 622
  - Centralizing worship in Jerusalem
  - Prescriptions for celebrating Passover
  - Prohibition of particular pagan practices
- 6:4 — "Shema": affirmation of monotheism or exclusivism)?

Deuteronomy 5