

I listened to the Bible for two hours. I have also read all of the assigned reading and took notes on it. I watched all of the videos.

The “Torah”, which consists of the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, is a sacred text to the Jewish community. It is also known as the Pentateuch, which is the first five books of the Christian Bible.

Genesis is God’s self-revelation, creation’s origin story, sin’s corruption of it and His covenantal plan to restore the relationship between Himself and creation (Hill and Walton, 58). Exodus records God: freeing His people from slavery, establishing the covenantal laws they will follow to be in relationship with Him and the promise of land that He will dwell on with them (58). Leviticus is an expansion of these laws recorded in Exodus (58). Numbers records Israel’s failure to trust God in the Sinai wilderness and this generation’s subsequent denial into the Promised Land. Deuteronomy sees Israel’s next generation being given the Laws again in preparation for their entry into the Promised Land (58).

Hill and Walton, in their Genesis video, shed a new light on God instructing Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. One of the main points usually emphasized is God testing Abraham’s faith in Him. However, Hill and Walton add that, in nearly sacrificing Isaac, Abraham is also nearly sacrificing the Covenant that God made with him. The new light shed is that the Covenant benefits are not the point of following God. It is the relationship with Him.

A couple of questions arose out of this week’s videos and readings. Sin entered into the world through Adam and Eve, but where did it originate? Another question is: how does Judaism differ in Christianity in its hermeneutics and interpretation of the Pentateuch or “Torah”?