

September 15, 2020

Video: I watched the whole video.

Readings: I fully read all the assigned readings. I highlighted and made notes.

In, *A Survey of the Old Testament*, Hill and Walton invite the reader to take a more traditional approach to be able to delve in the history that the Hebrew Bible has to offer.

In chapter 1, it is taught that experiencing God's attributes leads to Knowing God (Hill and Walton, 21). Whatever might the Old Testament be thought to be, needs to be practically thrown out the window. It is filled with genealogies, laws, stories etc. The Old Testament is not trying to make anyone view all aspects of it a whole new perspective, nevertheless God desires all to hear and treasure His story--the story of God. All is done and fulfilled by God's self-revelation. The Old Testament is a revelation of God and His attributes. Through God's self-revelation His plan is revealed. His plan from the beginning was to create humanity and for there to be a relationship. Once God creates Adam and Eve, He initiates a relationship with them, which ultimately is broken by their disobedience which drives them out of Eden. After these happenings, God intends to reconstruct His relationship with humanity and restore His presence. Walton and Hill present 7 stages of God's presence (Hill and Walton 23).

Hill and Walton's approach in reading the Hebrew Bible appears to be traditional. It is encouraged to analyze and evaluate books and stories where God's self-revelation is presented to the reader. They point out that the interpreter should not seek for specific meanings or symbolisms if the biblical text is accepted as authoritative (Hill and Walton, 29). They encourage the reader and or interpreter to place themselves in the time in which a specific text was written. By practicing this, the reader will comprehend in a much clearer manner the intentions of the

author of the text. It might be comprehended as when a child listens to a storybook and they picture themselves in the actual story. In that very moment, a child's mind is fully engaged in what's happening in the story and receives the story as face value, observing and absorbing all details without trying to find any symbolism or meanings (Hill and Walton, 29).

The Old Testament has been the most challenging testament to interpret. Many have been challenged by the complexity and length of this biblical text. Hill and Walton very finely and in much detail have presented their approaches to aid readers in comprehending this fascinating text. Through dedication, vulnerability and an open mind, rejecting all possible speculations and ideas, the Hebrew Bible can be interpreted through and through.