

A Survey of The Old Testament Chapter 3 - Introduction to The Pentateuch

Judith Cook

I read the Book of Leviticus in the Old Testament for 2 hours, in addition I read 100% of the assigned reading carefully and took notes. I watched the assigned videos for lessons 3-8 and the Bible Project videos as well. I found the illustrations and charts in the videos extremely helpful.

The Pentateuch a term used for the first five books of the Old Testament which include the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The Pentateuch is also commonly called the “Law of Moses” or the “Torah”, has two divisions. The first division Genesis 1-11, chronicles creation, the fall of mankind and the broken relationship between God and humanity. The second division Genesis 12 – Deuteronomy 34 establishes covenant bonding between God and mankind, (Hill and Walton, 51-58).

Genesis is the history of God’s creation of order to dwell with mankind, but sin disrupts God’s order, so God re-establishes his presence through a covenant with Abraham’s family. In the book of Exodus, God brings judgment on Egypt for enslaving His covenant people. Moses is established as deliverer and mediator between Yahweh and Israel. Leviticus is the handbook for holy living, worship, and consecration. Numbers is the book of testing and provision and warns about disobedience and addresses the need for sound righteous leadership. Deuteronomy is the second giving of the law and formalizes the covenant in preparation for inhabiting the promised land.

Reading Genesis chapter 19, which details the story of Lot and the angels visiting the city of Sodom. Lot invites them to spend the night in his home for protection. Lot makes a feast for the angels thereby drawing attention to his home. This seems to be counter productive to the purpose of bring them to his home for protection from the men of the city.

I would be interested in researching where the tradition of sacrificing women (wives, daughters, concubines) to protect men started? This is repeated in Judges 19-20 as well.

In Genesis 34, the story of Dinah who was raped by Shechem. Although Shechem offered to make amends and marry her. Isn't the use of the ritual of circumcision for murder a violation of one of God's covenant laws?