

- I have read for 2 hours
- I read 100% of the assigned reading carefully and underlined what I thought was important.
- I watched all the videos.

Essay #2:

Pentateuch describes the first 5 books of the OT: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Hill and Walton writes, that the key themes of the Pentateuchal narratives are God's covenant, Abraham's posterity, divine election and blessing, and the promise land.

The purpose and message of Genesis is to establish a God's story, his creation of world and humankind, in which God made a covenant with Abraham and his family that would eventually be the chosen people, to restore humanity's broken relationship with God resulted from man's original sin. In Exodus, God's chosen people Israel, slaved and oppressed in Egypt in captivity gets deliverance and God established covenant with them at Mt. Sinai. Leviticus talks about God's presence and holiness that dwells in Israel tabernacle, and instructs how Israel may enter God's holy presence. The message of Numbers also demonstrates the importance of holiness and God's faithfulness in his covenant promises that if they stay faithful, God will bless them. Deuteronomy is written to the 2nd generation of Israel, descents of those that came out of Egypt, who are about to finally enter the promise land, Canaan. The message is that if you worship God and obey his word, you will be blessed. If not, there will be punishment.

Studying Pentateuch resurfaced my curiosity regarding the age of earth. On a personal level, it doesn't matter whether the earth is old or young, but I do wonder what theologians currently are saying about creationism in respect to science. In addition, I am wondering how much value should be given to a liturgical calendar in church today. Lastly, I will like to research the sabbath rest and sabbatical year, its significance and why some churches don't give or emphasize it more for church pastors.