

I watched all of the lecture video and followed along the lecture notes, and read 100% of the assigned four chapters in Hill and Walton, highlighting along the way. I've listened to more than 2 hours of Genesis-Exodus on YouVersion App's ESV audio recording.

In Chapter 1 of Hill and Walton, the authors introduce an approach to reading the Old Testament that acknowledges the text as God's self-revelation, which must therefore be allowed to speak for itself. The chapter provides an overview of how God, since the beginning, had a plan to be present with His people in relationship and to make Himself known, and the importance of the concept of covenant as the executor of this plan. With this understanding, the Old Testament, or the "Old Covenant," is primarily a story of how God has been present and has revealed Himself since the beginning of time than it is a history of particular people and events; the focus is foremost on God.

As God's self-revelatory Scripture that is different from other literature, it is important to acknowledge its divine authority and truth and to search the intentions that are being communicated in the text rather than subjectively attributing meaning based on the reader's presuppositions or experience. Procedures such as determining the genre of the book, its original audience and context can help interpret the message of the text, which then calls for response of worship and obedience toward life of becoming more like God.

The strength of Hill and Walton's approach to the Old Testament seems to be in the upholding of proper view of God as God, acknowledging His rightful centrality as the ultimate author of the Scripture and the continuous perfecter of people's faith in it. If this trust in the authority of God were missing in their or any approach to the Old Testament, it would likely create a misunderstanding of

God's character and intentions, and limit how deeply His self-revelation may impact the reader's heart and worldview.