

Welcome to Week 2 of our Story of the Bible class.

The content this week includes patterns from the creation narratives we see in the rest of Pentateuch as we soar over Exodus through Deuteronomy.

- Here is the [Link to this week's video](#)
- And the [Link for Bonus Content](#)

Optional Reading

- 1) Read or listen to an audio recording of Exodus 1–20
- 2) Read or listen to an audio recording of Deuteronomy 4–11 (look for all the creation imagery!)
- 3) Spend time specifically with Exodus 15. The song is one of the oldest Israelite songs we know of! Then read Psalm 78, 106, 107.
 - a) How do the songs highlight different parts of the Exodus story?
 - b) How do the songs point to the character of God?
- 4) Read Leviticus 19.
 - a) Notice the clause repeated the most in this chapter. Put into your own words what the purpose of the Israelite laws are.
 - b) Take specific note of verse 34 and read that with the next verses from Deuteronomy.
- 5) Read Deuteronomy 6:4–5 is called the *Shema*. That comes from the first word of the verses “Hear!” And this means “hear and do” not simple listen to the sound waves. This statement is considered to be THE central affirmation of faith for the Israelites and Jews of modern day.
 - a) Leviticus 19:34 and Deuteronomy 6:5 have interesting parallels to each other in the Hebrew. They were both considered to be the most important part of Israelite faith in God. When later generations asked, “what is the greatest commandment?” the answer was one or both of these statements. Do you hear this in any of the teachings of Jesus?
- 6) Read Deuteronomy 32. How do you hear the summary of the Israelite story in this song? What do you learn of God’s character compared to human character?

Additional Resources

- Last week I referenced Sandra Richter’s book *Epic of Eden*. She has a great chapter about styles, forms, and purposes of covenants. That

chapter will help explain the impact of creating a covenant with God on the Israelite mentality and sense of identity.

- A podcast on the name of God. The name is given in Exodus 3:15, but it is historically hard to know exactly what the name means and how to pronounce it. The episode is [The Name of God - One Name or Many?](#)
- A podcast on the [Slavery and the Biblical Law](#): The cry of humanity we hear in the biblical narrative and in the Blues.
- Carmen Joy Imes's book *Bearing God's Name: Why Sinai Still Matters*. She was on my podcast and you can listen to her summary of the main parts of the book on [Do Not Bear God's Name In Vain](#)

Please feel free to email me with any questions!

~Cyndi