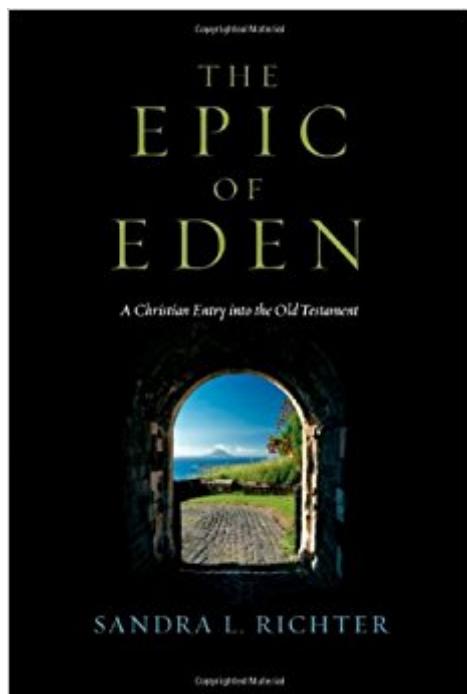


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# The Epic Of Eden: A Christian Entry Into The Old Testament



## Synopsis

Does your knowledge of the Old Testament feel like a grab bag of people, books, events and ideas? How many times have you resolved to really understand the OT? To finally make sense of it? Perhaps you are suffering from what Sandra Richter calls the "dysfunctional closet syndrome." If so, she has a solution. Like a home-organizing expert, she comes in and helps you straighten up your cluttered closet. Gives you hangers for facts. A timeline to put them on. And handy containers for the clutter on the floor. Plus she fills out your wardrobe of knowledge with exciting new facts and new perspectives. The whole thing is put in usable order--a history of God's redeeming grace. A story that runs from the Eden of the Garden to the garden of the New Jerusalem. Whether you are a frustrated do-it-yourselfer or a beginning student enrolled in a course, this book will organize your understanding of the Old Testament and renew your enthusiasm for studying the Bible as a whole.

## Book Information

Paperback: 263 pages

Publisher: IVP Academic; 10/31/08 edition (November 20, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0830825770

ISBN-13: 978-0830825776

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 124 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,364 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Meditations > Old Testament #8 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation > Old Testament #10 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings > Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)

## Customer Reviews

"Here is a text that will instruct its readers, no matter what level of expertise they bring to it. The author converses with her contemporary lay reader in a winsome manner, knowing well the cultural chasm that exists for many Western readers of the OT. At the same time, her years as both graduate student and professor are evident in her selection and presentation of key themes that introduce the OT. Both the text and the endnotes are goldmines of historical and theological observations and resources." (Elaine A. Phillips, Bulletin for Biblical Research, 19.3, 2009)"A helpful first entry point into the OT." (J. Day, Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, 33.5, 2009)"Using

the image of a dysfunctional closet as her organizing metaphor, she provides a framework within which Old Testament data can be arranged and understood. Wherever possible she links the biblical material with the New Testament references. Extensive endnotes are evidence of the research that undergirds this book, but the writing style is reader-friendly and captures one's imagination. Charts and illustrations throughout the book provide visual reinforcement of what is discussed. This is a very enjoyable introduction for beginners." (Diane Bergant, C.S.A., *The Bible Today*, July 2009)"Second only to my visiting Israel is *The Epic of Eden* in bringing the words of the Bible to life for me, at least as regards our watered-down understanding of the immensely important Biblical and historical concepts of covenant and redemption. . . . For anyone who needs to clean their Old Testament closet, *The Epic of Eden* is a wonderful organizational tool." (Peter M. Lopez, *Beauty of the Bible* ([beautyofthebible.com](http://beautyofthebible.com)), January 10, 2009)"The Old Testament tells of God's creation and the redemption of his people. Granted, it is a story that climaxes in the New Testament, but the New Testament cannot be understood apart from the Old. Christians have neglected the study of the Old Testament because (if we are honest) we find it confusing and distant from Jesus Christ, the center of our faith. Sandra Richter's *The Epic of Eden* helps the reader discover the riches and passion of the Old Testament story. This book will not only expand your knowledge, it will deepen your spiritual life." (Tremper Longman III, Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies, Westmont College)

Sandra L. Richter (Ph.D., Harvard University) is professor of Old Testament, Wheaton College. She is a graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Harvard University's Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations department. Her publications include *The Deuteronomistic History and the Name Theology* (Walter de Gruyter) and articles in Eerdmans' *Handbook to the Bible* (Eerdmans) and *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Historical Books* (InterVarsity Press).

Sandra L. Richter is an amazing professor! She educates you in a down to earth way. You feel very enlightened and want to study with her more. She explains in detail and simplifies complex situations in the Holy Bible to the level an average person can realize how these people feel and live. There are many "Ah Ha moments." Your eyes will be opened and you will truly see how great God is, I felt as though I had looked through a window into our history and saw everything in living action. I recommend this book very highly.

I have been studying the Bible for over sixty years. And I would say that if you can read only one

book that explains the Old Testament and how it delves into the New Testament, this is that book. Sandra L. Richter presents an approach that I had never before encountered. Yet it is quite understandable to a layperson. Charts and diagrams are included. I also saw the accompanying DVD. Hearing the author and seeing her personality added an enjoyable dimension to her teaching.

My book club read this book. It's almost like taking a college course. A lot of excellent information arranged in a way that helps you remember it although I will probably read it again. There was information that was new to us so it was very thought-provoking. Good for a book club because it invokes lively discussion.

Epic of Eden brings a fresh perspective to the beautiful story of God's love and redemption roadmap. I highly recommend this book to anyone who seeks to better understand the flow and unfolding genius from Genesis to Revelation. While I love all scripture, reading the New Testament is a joy, but reading some of the Old Testament a chore or a pure head scratcher. Sandra Richter has brought such clarity to how connected and beautifully revealing God's story of redemption is mapped out from Eden to Revelation that I sensed was there but just couldn't connect the dots. I loved the book.

My daughter bought me this for Christmas. She's working on her doctorate in Biblical Studies in seminary. She said that it was the best written book on the OT she'd ever read. She's right. This book is designed to give everyone the necessary framework to understand the Old Testament, in a clear, readily understood manner. But it does more than that. It is a good read. Dr. Richter can write and write well. She makes the OT understandable for lay people such as myself in an engrossing style that reads more like a novel than text book. If you've ever wanted to be able to understand the OT, read this. If I were a pastor, it would be required reading to join my church! It's that good. Thank you Dr. Richter!

A great overview of the important principles of the Old Testament that a lot of Western readers tend not to understand. This book gave me insight that illuminated Old Testament scripture in a new way to me. A great book to read before starting serious study of the Old Testament

I wish that I had read Dr. Richter's book - or had the level of understanding I've come away with after reading it - many years ago. I wish this had been required reading as a prerequisite for my

seminary time at Dallas Theological Seminary. Invest the money and get a copy - you won't regret Dr. Richter's fun, approachable, gracious, and memorable style of presenting this 'Christian Entry into the Old Testament.' I've also left a comment for Mr. Wilson, who at the time of this was the sole 3 star review of the book. I think Mr. Wilson's review is unfair and misguided. Expecting an author to provide answers - or even take a firm position - on topics that are outside of the scope of the work is poor scholarship. Richter is fair and gracious and leaves room for others to stand upon her shoulders as she is doing and credits those who have come before her. Excellent book!

If you want to know why the Old Testament is essential to understanding the New Testament and how much God loves us and wants to make a way to be part of God's family, this is the book for you. So deep and rich. Absolutely loved this book & study and feel I have a much better handle on the thinking of the ancient Biblical characters and God's love & provision for them and for us!

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