

Book of the Month

May 2010

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

**The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament.
Sandra L. Richter. IVP Academic. Downers Grove, IL. 2008.**

If you are one of those people for whom the Old Testament is an incomprehensible concoction of stories, battles, kings, rules, proverbs, poetry, prophesy and liturgical instructions... well, I have just the book for you. The genius of Sandra Richter's new book is that she sees the Old Testament for what it essentially is: a story. Organizing the diverse parts along one basic storyline, she enables the reader to grasp the epic account of God's redeeming grace that begins in the Garden of Eden and ends in the New Jerusalem. Five covenants built around five characters comprise the skeleton of the story: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David. Once one grasps these core essentials, the story unfolds in all of its dramatic splendor.

As Christians we desperately need to understand the Old Testament not only because of its history and culture. More importantly, we need it to help us understand Jesus.

He is the Last Adam who defeats Eden's curse; the second Noah commissioned to save God's people from the coming flood of his wrath; the seed of Abraham; the new lawgiver who stands upon the mountain and amazes his audience by the authority with which he speaks; and he is the heir of David. (p. 217)

Pastor Stan Key