

1. What is the central argument or thesis of the essay, and where is this stated?

Central argument is given in the first paragraph, with the portrayal of God varying between authority to personal relationships before settling as a political leader for the Jewish people.

2. What type of evidence do you use to support this thesis? Do you feel you have made a convincing case?

Evidence consists primarily of examination of the relationship between God and his subjects in chronological order, moving from pre-Abraham to Abraham to post-Abraham. Each phase focuses on his relationship and crucially his communication – even stopping to count the words in God’s speech to Noah – with his subjects.

3. How have you organized your essay (topically, chronologically, etc.)? You may include a brief outline if you like.

The organization is nicely signposted at the start, and ties the chronological progression of interactions with God (which is also how the body paragraphs are structured) to the evolving nature of God.

I think that this is convincing; the end conclusion lacks teleological power – it is hard to see *why* God undergoes this evolution – but is still a very crucial message, with the last section of God as a political leader being very insightful.

4. What do you like best about the essay? What are its strengths?

The selection of evidence is very strong. Alongside the structure of the essay, tracking the chronological progression of God’s character is a powerful move, with a surplus of exemplar interactions between human and deity. The organization is also very clear and well mapped-out, which helps the presentation of evidence.

5. What are the essay’s greatest weaknesses?

The essay can get a little preoccupied with the presentation of evidence and not the analysis, see the section before the transition to *Exodus* starting with the discussion on the “form of the

discussion of the covenant.” There’s a dearth of footnotes and expository statements here, and the analysis is a bit general for my taste. That being said, the structure and signposting of the paper makes it easy to follow anyway!

6. What specific questions do you have for your readers?

It’s stated elsewhere in the Bible (both Old and New Testament) that God is immutable (see passages like Malachi 3:6). Does this essay challenge that view explicitly, or can it operate within the context of an immutable character of God, such that the actual deity is constant, with only human relations to God changing?