

INTRODUCTION:

- 1) TODAY WE WILL BEGIN OUR COURSE WITH AN INTRODUCTION TO UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT

THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1) WHY STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT?
- 2) THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
- 3) THE DIVISIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
- 4) THE BEGINNINGS

PART 1 – WHY STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Q 1) HOW MANY BOOKS ARE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, AND WHEN WERE THEY WRITTEN?

REASONS CHRISTIANS SHOULD STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT...

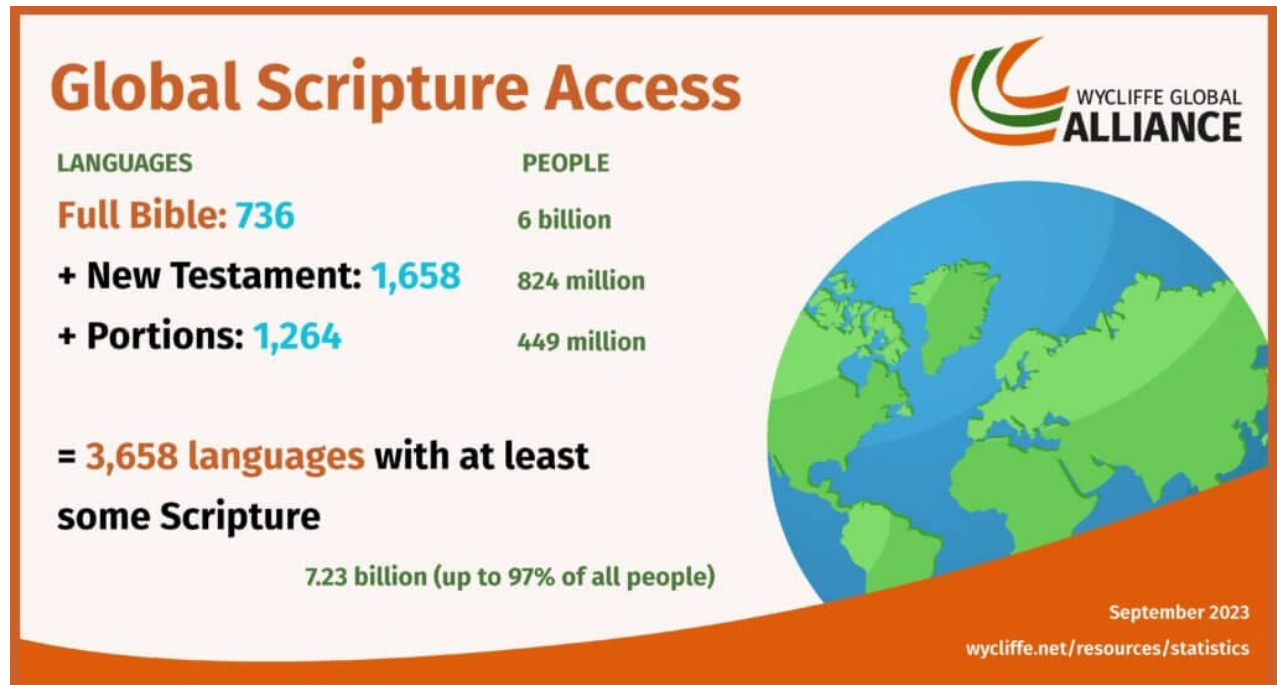
- 1. The Old Testament is the most accepted religious document.
- 2. The Old Testament was a covenant and makes up 75% of the entire Bible.
- 3. We should study the Old Testament to understand God better.
- 4. The Old Testament provides the background we need to understand the New Testament.
- 5. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of that new and better covenant.

Q 2) THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS A COVENANT OR AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOD AND WHAT PEOPLE?

Q 3) WHY IS STUDYING THE OLD TESTAMENT IMPORTANT?

PART 2 – THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:

FIGURE 1)



Q 4) WHAT FOUR QUESTIONS SHOULD WE CONSIDER IN REGARD TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Q 5) WHAT ARE THREE REASONS GIVEN FOR WHY WE SHOULD STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT?

PART 3 – THE DIVISIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:

FIGURE 2)

The Old Testament				
The Law	History	Poetry and Wisdom	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

PART 4 – THE BEGINNINGS:

Q 6) WHAT DOES GENESIS SHOW AND AFFIRM?

Q 7) WHO IS CREDITED AS THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS?

OUTLINE OF GENESIS 1–11...

Genesis 1–11 introduces the background and the problem that the entire Bible discusses.

- I. The Creation Account, 1–2
 - A. Summary of all creation (1:1–2:4)
 - B. Creation of Adam and Eve (2:4–25)
- II. Humanity’s Fall and Its Results, 3–5
 - A. Adam and Eve’s disobedience and judgment (3)
 - B. Cain and the ungodly lineage (4:1–24)
 - C. Seth and the godly lineage (4:25–5:32)
- III. The Flood: God’s Judgment, 6:1–8:17
- IV. Humankind’s New Beginning, 8:18–11:32
 - A. God’s covenant with Noah (8:20–9:17)
 - B. Noah and his sons (9:18–10:32)
 - C. The tower of Babel (11:1–9)
 - D. The messianic line of Shem (11:10–32)

“The biblical account of Creation is a short summary for a specific purpose. Imagine how much God could have told us about the creation of the universe and every living thing. But the purpose of the Genesis account of creation was not to answer the millions of questions that science can ask. Rather, Genesis 1–2 was written for the purpose of showing humankind’s beginning in relation to God. What the Bible says about creation is true. But it is good to realize that Genesis was written for a theological, not a scientific purpose.

(Robert Cooley 2003)

Q 8) HOW DID THE HEBREWS USE THE WORD “SON”?

HOMEWORK FOR THE WEEK:

Read Genesis 1-11. If you aren't going to read it all at one time, follow the outline above that is divided into sections. If you choose to use an Audio Bible, that is fine too.

