

For this assignment I committed myself to read at least a couple of hours. Three times in the week and to also dedicate myself to reading 100 percent of the assigned text. Through this process I highlighted keynotes that stuck out to me most important. Studying the Old Testament has greatly increased not only my knowledge of who God is but also the historical wealth of learning the Old Testament and the relevance of the Old Testament that carries over to the Soteriological people of the New Covenant. We first learned that God was first identified to Moses as being the "I AM" which is found in Exodus 3:14, which is where the name Yahweh is derived. We have learned also of all his attributes as well. We have learned that he is the creator of all things and that his plans from the beginning of time was to be accomplished through a broken and frail humanity. Not because of our faithfulness but because of God's Sovereignty. We learned that he is all knowing and throughout creation God's wisdom and providence is personified and expressed through his proverbs (A Survey of the Old Testament Hill and Walton). We also learned that there is no other God but Yahweh and that through his sovereignty his will would be accomplished. We learned that another attribute of our Holy God is that he is Transcendent. Meaning that we will not always be able to understand his perfect plans as the book in the Holy Bible quotes "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa. 55:8-9). Another important attribute that I learned was God's Righteousness and Justice. We may think that we know what's best for humanity however due to the inability of not having the full scope of God's plan in our whim we do not have the ability to see the large picture of how he will exercise his justice and righteousness on earth. We also learned that he is a compassionate and gracious God and that even in the Old Testament his grace and mercy was revealed.

Some who enter the local church today face an infamous Dichotomy that are taught on some local platforms of Churches. Law versus Grace or Soteriological people versus revelatory people. This dichotomy is that we are living in a time of Grace and that God has changed his mind through his Son Jesus who went from an all-consuming angry God, which was the God of the law to a God who is full of mercy and love which is the God of grace. But diving into the Old Testament a little deeper taught me that God was always full of mercy, Love and grace and that the Law was given to us not only to teach us the standard of right and wrong but also through the law we could understand the full attributes of his characteristics. The Law was actually given to us as an act of grace to allow God to reveal himself to us. This relationship was lost when Adam and Eve decided to take on the full autonomy on making their own decisions of what good and evil was so, God had to through the Law restore to humanity what good and evil was through the Law. The law was used as a Guardian until the fullness of time would be completed. This plan of redemption that was communicated through his Covenant promises which was going to be fulfilled through the coming of Jesus Christ. The description of this dichotomy should be utilized in the life of the local churches to give a full description of who God always was, and is and is to come and to demystify this misconception so that humanity may understand better the heart of God. Not a God who is schizophrenic or changes in his ways but an immutable God that has always remained the same.

This would clear the misconceptions that are still present in our Churches today. Some people may think that the Old Testament is boring however, when you study and teach others to see that Yahweh's redemptive promises and Laws always pointed to Jesus Christ. It gives us as students of the word of God

more appreciation and zeal to learn who God is not only through the synoptic Gospels but also through the Old Testament as well.

The Old Testament can teach a Muslim that they are also a blessed people through Ishmael and that the promise of salvation is also inherited through their father Abraham's lineage. However, the Muslims are not a Child of the promise which is only through the invitation from the free woman Sarah not the slave woman Hagar. But the good news is that through Abraham's and Sarah's Covenant promise with God they also have access to receive salvation through Jesus Christ.

As far as a nine-year-old I will express to them that the Old Testament covers the creation of the world, the creation of humanity, the fall of humanity, and the promises which are all found in the Old Testament. This is the same approach I would also take to teach a skeptic for which sometimes you have to break it down to them as if they were nine years old as well. I would also explain that history, Scripture and geographical evidence throughout history along as with the founding's and support of archeologist have perfectly proven that Scriptures in the Holy Bible today fit together in such a perfect way that it can only be possible through divine providence that this book narrative fits all together seamlessly to give us the greatest love story ever told. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that for whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life".

