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OT 720.NA - Pentateuch (Hebrew)

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Midterm Examination

Part One: Define any 10 of the following terms

1. **Elohim:** Elohim is the Hebrew word for “gods”, and while it is plural it was used to refer to Israel’s God to emphasize majesty or intensity. Israelite worshipped in old sanctuaries where many gods were worshipped, and by using “Elohim,” it signified how Israel’s one God replaced the pantheon of gods once worshipped there.
2. **Tetragrammaton:** the Hebrew word for “God”, represented in 4 letters, YHWH.
3. **Documentary Hypothesis:** Unlike the traditional view that believes the Pentateuch was authored by Moses, the documentary hypothesis believes there are multiple authors who contributed to and developed these books. They argue that Moses couldn’t have been the author for all five books because some events occurred outside of his lifetime.
4. **Pentateuch:** The Greek word referring to the first five books of the Bible which were authored by Moses, also known as the Torah.
5. **Monotheism:** the belief that only one God exists.
6. **Decalogue:** The Greek word for the Ten Commandments, laws given to the Israelites by God through Moses
7. **Lex talionis:** The Latin term that is most commonly described as “an eye for an eye” where justice is retributed.
8. **Satan:** Satan is known as the tempter and enemy. Out of pride, Satan wanted to be like

God causing a rebellion and then being banished from heaven. He is known as an evil one in opposition to God. He tricks and tempts humanity to doubt God for who He says He is.

9. **Enuma Elish:** The Babylonian creation story in which humans are created to do work so that gods can live in comfort. Unlike the Christian creation story, humans are slaves created to do work, rather than having authority over creation.
10. **Code of Hammurabi:** King Hammurabi authored these Babylonian laws in 18th century BCE that are largely based on lex talionis. Lex talionis was common in the Ancient Near East and is even seen in the Mosaic laws.

Part Two: Answer any 3 of the following essay questions.

1. The Documentary Hypothesis is a modern view that disagrees with the traditional view that Moses is the sole author of all the books in the Pentateuch. People who support the Documentary Hypothesis argue that it's not possible for Moses to be the author because there are sections that happened outside of his lifetime. There are also different literary styles that indicate various authors contributed. This hypothesis believes in something more anthrocentric and evolutionary where multiple people wrote and developed the first five books. The Documentary Hypothesis credit four sources contributed to the Pentateuch: Yahwist (J), Elohist (E), Deuteronomistic (D), and Priestly (P) sources.

The Yahwist authors focused on God as YHWH which covers the patriarchs in Genesis. It is written in epic style with colorful folklore and also portrays God through human characteristics. The Elohist authors focused on God as Elohim. Its writing was moralistic and prophetic. The Deuteronomistic authors wrote to exhort and warn God's people. It includes the covenants as well as the blessings that follow if obedient to God

versus the curses if disobedient. The Priestly authors covered genealogy, the many laws, rituals, and liturgy texts. The writing style includes repetition and it is arranged in an organized structure.

2. While the book of Genesis covers a large portion of history, some major themes include creation, sin, covenant, and God's sovereignty. It is clear that in creation, God is sovereign as He creates everything "ex nihilo." Unlike other creation stories, where humanity is created to be slaves for gods, God creates humanity in His image so that they would be in a relationship with Him.

God gives Adam and Eve, as well as all of mankind, a choice to enter into a relationship and to remain in relationship through obedience. Eve was tempted by Satan to disobey God, and she ate the fruit out of her desire to be independent of Him. As the theme of sin develops in Genesis, we see not only disobedience to God but also the belief that humans know better than Him and no longer need to depend on Him. As a holy God, there is no place for sin, yet in His sovereignty, He displays mercy and forgiveness.

While there are consequences for sin and disobedience, God extends grace.

The theme of covenant is seen between Adam and Eve's marriage and with Noah after the flood, but it becomes more prominent with Abraham and the patriarchs. Out of His relationship with Abraham, God promises blessings for all. These covenants also reinforce His relationship with creation even in sin through grace. In each of these themes, God's sovereignty is displayed.

3. The life of Abraham and his lineage covers the majority of Genesis, more than 80 percent. In comparison to the first 11 chapters of Genesis, the narrative slows down as Abram is introduced. In Abram's call are God's promises and blessings that would not

only affect him and his immediate family but also all the generations to follow. Abram and his descendants exhibit a faith that leads to God's promises being fulfilled, and there are also moments of doubt that leads to God's promises being delayed or only partially fulfilled. In the scheme of the Genesis narrative, some of these setbacks take quite a bit of time.

Generally speaking, Abraham is depicted as a faithful man. He takes grand steps of faith from leaving his well-established home into a place of uncertainty to almost sacrificing his only son that he and Sarah desperately waited for. But Abraham is still a sinful human and this is seen as he sleeps with Hagar to establish God's promises in his own time and even claims Sarah to be his sister to protect his own life. These moments of weakness can be looked down upon as moral failures or it can be applauded as being clever. In the bigger picture of things, I believe it is just an accurate depiction of humanity trying to follow a faithful God; there are moments of walking closely with the Lord and there are moments of failure.

Part Three: Choose or provide the correct answer.

1. According to Hamilton, one of the important phrases in the book of Leviticus that begins 20 of the 27 chapters of Leviticus is the following:
 - a. These are the generations of
 - b. These are commanded by the Lord
 - c. **The Lord said to Moses**
 - d. These are the commandments that the Levites must do
2. The first 10 chapters of Leviticus are devoted to a description of the sacrifices ordained by God.

True (); **False (✓)**

3. In Leviticus 1-7, the **whole burnt offering** is the only offering that is given completely to YHWH.
4. Leviticus like the names of the other books of the **Pentateuch** is borrowed from the Greek translation of the Bible.
5. Leviticus **and Exodus** contains practical prescriptions for holiness.
6. According to Hamilton, the idea of being “fruitful and multiplying” is a theme that is introduced uniquely to Abraham and reiterated in Exodus 1.

True (✓); False ()

7. According to Hamilton, the name Moses’ contains both Hebrew, Greek, and Egyptian languages.

True (); **False (✓)**

8. There are similarities in the events of the lives of the following:
 - a. **Moses and Jacob**
 - b. Pharaoh and Esau
 - c. Joseph and Esau
 - d. None of the above
 - e. All of the above
9. According to Hamilton, the divine purpose of the plagues is the following
 - a. The liberation of Israel
 - b. A display of the power of YHWH
 - c. To develop a belief in YHWH only
 - d. **To aid Pharaoh, Egypt and the Israelites to acquire knowledge of the one**

True God

10. According to Alexander, Exodus is essentially a book about knowing God through personal experience.

True (✓); False ()

11. Exodus continues the story of the people of God that is started in **Genesis**.

12. According to Alexander, the following are themes in the book of Exodus:

- a. The divine presence of God that is revealed and symbolized by smoke and fire
- b. The Holiness of God
- c. Worship at Sinai
- d. **None of the above**
- e. A, B and C

13. According to Alexander, aspects of God's nature are highlighted by different **names**.

14. According to Wenham, **El** is the name that God used when He revealed Himself to the patriarchs.

15. The most frequently occurring designation or name for God in the Old Testament is El.

True (✓); False ()

16. According to Hamilton the 3 month journey from Egypt to Sinai was a time of delight and carefree communion due to the intervention of Yahweh.

True (); **False (✓)**

17. During the 3 month journey, there were **at least four** crises for the Israelites.

18. According to Blenkinsopp the events in the Pentateuch cover the following amount of time:

- a. 11 months

b. **Approximately 3 thousand years**

c. 5 months

d. None of the above

19. 8 of the 10 commandments are positive prohibitions.

True (); **False (✓)**

20. 8 of the 10 laws of the Decalogue are **negative apodictic prohibitions**.