

Alliance Theological Seminary
Kim

Name: Sarah

OT 504.NA Hebrew Bible in the Eastern Mediterranean World
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Cleotha Robertson, Ph.D., D.Min.
Cleotha.Robertson@Nyack.edu

Hebrew Bible in the Eastern Mediterranean World Midterm Examination

Part One: Define all of the following.

1. **Case/casuistic law** - Often in the form of a conditional sentence (if/then) and is based on precedents. Moral principles are applied to determine right and wrong in specific situations. It is contrasted with apodictic law.
2. **Apodictic law** - Characterized by absolute or general commands and prohibitions i.e. "thou shall not" as in the Ten Commandments. Apodictic law has little application in the courts.
3. **Code of Hammurabi** - Ancient collection of laws of the *lex talionis* principles (touches on points of civil law) issued by the Babylonian king, Hammurabi, in the mid eighteenth century BCE.
4. **Suzerainty-vassal treaty** - A binding agreement between a king or suzerain and a lesser king, the suzerain's vassal. These treaties were drawn up as agreements to honor each other's boundaries, maintain trade relations, and return run-away slaves. These treaties are preserved in the Mari Tablets and in the Amarna texts.
5. **Holiness Code** - Founded in chapters 17-26 of Leviticus and associated with the priestly community of the postexilic period. Principle theme is the holiness of Yahweh and of his people.
6. **Historiography** - Study of historical writing.
7. **Documentary Hypothesis** - Theory formulated by Julius Wellhausen in 1878 and an approach to the origin of the Pentateuch associated with source criticism that understand the five books as a patchwork composition of four or more literary documents. The principal hypothetical sources are J, E, D, and P.
8. **Deuteronomic/Deuteronomistic History** - Editorial framework and perspective reflecting late monarchical events for the conquest sagas, territorial inventories, and judge narratives of these books.
9. **Kathleen Kenyon** - British archaeologist who led excavations of the sites of Ancient Jericho.
10. **Jericho** - City of Jericho is situated 15 miles northwest of Jerusalem, 6 miles west of the Jordan River and 10 miles northwest of the Dead Sea. In the bible, Jericho is linked to Joshua's conquest, Elijah's ascension and the judge Ehud's murder of King Eglon of Moab.
11. **Iron Age** - Historical period from 1200 BCE to 1000 BCE that coincides with early Israel or premonarchical Israel referring to the approximately two-

hundred year period that preceded Israel's formation as a national state. The transition to statehood is marked by the rise of Saul to a chieftaincy at approximately 1020 BC, followed by David's rise to national supranational power around 1000 BCE>

12. **Judge** - Appointed rulers or leaders who served in the military position in times of crisis before Israelite monarchy was established. They also presided over legal hearings.
13. **Hittites** - Adversaries of the Israelites and their God as mentioned throughout the Hebrew Tanakh. In Genesis 10, they were descendants of Heth, son of Canaan, son of Ham, born of Noah.
14. **Concubine** - In English translations of the Bible, the words prostitute, mistress or concubine do not always refer to a woman who lives with and has intercourse with a man to whom she is not legally married or to a woman who engages in promiscuous sexual intercourse for pay. In Hebrew, the terms are not always degrading but can often help distinguish secondary wives from primary wives (mothers of the household).
15. **Pentateuch** - First five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy)
16. **Hebron** - City of Hebron located twenty miles southwest of Jerusalem on the mountain ridge that formed that north-south route in the Judean Hill Country connecting Jerusalem with Beer-sheba. Hebron has strong ties with Abraham.
17. **Jael** - Wife of Heber the Kenite and is mentioned in the book of Judges as the heroine who killed Sisera to deliver Israel from the enemies of King Jabin.
18. **Tobit** - Book of Tobit is found in the Catholic and Orthodox biblical canons. Not found in Protestant or Jewish biblical canons.
19. **Heren** - Before going into the battle, warriors in the world of the Bible vowed all or a portion of their anticipated prisoners and plunder to Yahweh.
20. **Tamar** - Daughter in law of Judah and mother of the twins Perez and Zerah. In Genesis 38, Tamar marries Judah's eldest, Er but because of Er's wickedness, he was killed by God. Judah asks his second son, Onan, to provide offspring for Tamar so that the family line could continue, but Onan does not fulfill his duty and is also condemned as wicked in God's sight.

Part Two: Essay Questions - Answer all of the following in 100 words.

1. List and explain the conceptual differences that define the worldview of the Ancient Near East.

The Biblical world is ancient and takes place in an Eastern world. It essentially did not change and was agricultural. The people of the Bible thought of their goods and resources as limited. They also thought of themselves as households and placed great importance on hierarchy and familial structure. Those who are older in society are considered blessings. There was also no separation between religion, church and state. On the other hand, our world is modern and takes place in the Western world. Our society is constantly changing and more industrial than agricultural. Our

resources are constantly renewable and we think of ourselves as individuals rather than placing a heavy emphasis on familial structures. We also practice separation of the church and state in society today.

2. List the books and the major themes of the Pentateuch. Provide biblical passages that support each theme.

Genesis - Displays Yahweh's role as creator. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light." -Genesis 1:1-3

Exodus - Displays Yahweh's role as deliverer and Lawgiver. "And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." -Exodus 20:1-2

Leviticus (Holiness)- "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy." -Leviticus 19:1-2

Leviticus - Display's Yahweh's holiness. You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own. -Leviticus 20:26

Numbers - Displays Yahweh's faithfulness. "So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed!" -Numbers 21:9

Deuteronomy - Display's Yahweh's covenant with his people. "And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you." -Deuteronomy 4:1

3. Outline and list the major themes of the book of Judges.

The major themes in judges are the nature of charismatic leadership, the Spirit of the Lord and Israel's apostasy. Judges shows the failure of the Israelites to keep their part of the covenant. The cycles of the Judges period show how God demonstrated his power and mercy by delivering them again and again. The book shows that neither the leadership of the Judges nor the tribal leadership succeeded in helping the people remain faithful.

4. List the major views of the Conquest. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each view.
 1. Blitzkrieg "Lightning war"
 2. Peaceful Migration
 3. Peasant Revolt