

Alliance Theological Seminary
OT 503.NA – Reading the Old Testament
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Midterm Examination

Part One: Define any 20 of the following terms (30 points)

1. **Elohim** - plural of elowahh; means gods when used ordinarily, but in the scriptures it is specifically used to identify the supreme God or the God who is transcendent, which is used 2602 times in the Bible.
2. **Tetragrammaton** - The transliteration of God's name in four letters: YHWH or JHVH; articulated as Yahweh or Jehovah.
3. **Documentary hypothesis** - a hypothesis in biblical scholarship that proposes the Pentateuch/Torah was not revealed by God to Moses, but is actually a composition of several documents, sources known as E, J, D, and P. It is also known as the Graf-Wellhausen hypothesis.
4. **Pentateuch** - The greek word for five scrolls, which refers to the first five books of the Bible. In Hebrew, the word is Torah.
5. **Election** - The predisposition of God resulting in the arbitrary selection or choice of the people of Israel to be his covenant people.
6. **Theodicy** - The philosophical and/or theological defense of God's goodness and omnipotence in view of the existence of evil.
7. **Theocracy** - A state or nation ruled directly by God.
8. **transcendent** - The notion of God's otherness, specifically his distinct and unique self from the created order; the mysterious and unfathomable nature of God.
9. **monotheism** - The worship of one God; the belief that only one God exists.
10. **Decalogue** - The Ten Commandments.
11. **Masorettes** - Jewish scholars and scribes that preserved the Hebrew Bible and improved word divisions, specifically by adding vowels, punctuation marks, and verse divisions between the time period of AD 500 and AD 900.

12. **lex taliones** - A concept meaning that punishment for criminal acts will be exacted in a fashion commensurate with the misdeed.
13. **typology** - An aspect of biblical interpretation that establishes a correspondance between old Testament events, persons, objects or ideas and the New Testament counterparts through foreshadowing or prototype.
14. **Satan** - The enemy of God who tempts people with the purpose of inciting evil or disproving faith.
15. **Protoevangelion** - Means “first gospel” or the first message of redemption in the Bible.
16. **Patriarchs**
17. **J Source** - One of the sources in the documentary hypothesis. “J” is thought to be written by a Judean author during the 9th century. Yahweh is primarily used to refer to God and the style is epic and colorful folklore.
18. **Priestly Source** - Another one of the sources in the documentary hypothesis. It is written by postexilic priests between 500 BC and 450 BC. It is made up of liturgical texts, ritualistic texts, genealogical tables, statistics, laws, and prescriptions.
19. **E Source** - One of the sources in the documentary hypothesis. It is thought to be written by a northern kingdom Israelite in 8th century BC. Elohim is the primary name used for God and there tends to be moralistic and prophetic descriptors.
20. **D Source** - A source of the documentary hypothesis that is identified with the book of Deuteronomy. It is thought to be written by a school during the reign of King Josiah between 630 BC and 600 BC.
21. **Toledoth** - Means record, family record, or account.
22. **El Shaddai** - A name of God meaning “God Almighty”.

Part Two : Answer all of the following essay questions.(50 points)

1. Discuss the Documentary hypothesis. What are the various components of the theory? List some the texts of the Bible that are used to support this theory? What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of the documentary hypothesis?
2. Outline and discuss the book of Genesis. What are some of the major themes of the book? Who are some of the major characters of the book? What are some of the critical issues involved in the academic examination of the book of Genesis? What are the strengths and weaknesses of these issues?
3. Outline and discuss the book of Exodus? What are some of the major themes of the book? Who are some of the major characters of the book? What are some of the criti-

cal issues involved in the academic examination of the book of Exodus? What are the strengths and weaknesses of these issues?

4. Outline the book Deuteronomy and list the major themes. What are the different theological themes that Deuteronomy add to the Pentateuch?

5. Outline the structure of the book of Ruth. What are the major emphases of the book?

Part Three: Check or provide the correct answer. (20 points)

1. Leviticus, the third book of the Pentateuch, is a manual of priestly regulations and duties and a handbook of instructions prescribing practical “holy living” for the Israelite covenant community. (✓) True ; () False

2. One of the major themes of the book of Exodus is the supremacy of Yahweh over pagan deities. () True ; (✓) False

3. The Decalogue or the Ten Commandments is found in the book of Exodus and the book of Deuteronomy. (✓) True ; () False

4. The following are key ideas found in the book of Genesis
() a. God created and creation was good
() b. God instituted a program of revelation called the covenant.
() c. Disobedience separated people from God.
() d. Answers a and b.
(x) e. Answers a, b and c.

5. The Hebrew word “toledoth” which means “generations” or “account” is found 11 times in the book of Exodus.
() True ; (✓) False

6. The following are key ideas found in the book of Leviticus:
() a. The holiness of God..
() b. The principle of substitution in the sacrificial ritual.
() c. The principle of mediation in the service of the priests.
() d. The redeeming of time by means of the liturgical calendar.
(x) e. Answers a, b, c and d.
() f. Answers a and b.

7. The book of Exodus depicts the confrontation between Moses versus Pharaoh and it is also actually a cosmic struggle between the true God, Yahweh and the false gods of the Egyptian religion.
(✓) True ; () False

8. According to Jewish and Christian tradition, Moses wrote the book of Exodus at the command of God in connection with Israel's covenant experience with Yahweh at Sinai.

True ; () False

9. Biblical scholars who are committed to some form of multiple authorship associated with the Pentateuch divide these books into major sources. These sources are the following:

() a. J source

() d. P source

() b. E source

() e. D source

() c. Q

() f. Answers a and e

g. Answers a, b, d and e.

10. The revelation of the divine name "Yahweh" (or Jehovah) does not occur in the Bible until the time of Moses. () True ; () False

11. The censuses in the book of Numbers are located in first two chapters and chapter 26.

bemidbar (in the wilderness) or

12. The book of Numbers is called the fourth book of Moses in the Septuagint.

13. The parts of the book of Deuteronomy are similar to that of a near-eastern vassal treaty.

14. The book of Deuteronomy is a 7th or 6th century document based upon the Documentary Hypothesis.

True (); False (())

15. One of the major themes of the book of Ruth is the kinsman-redeemer.

16. The book of Ruth occurs during the time of the United Monarchy.

True (()); False ()

17. The books of 1 and 2 Samuel were originally one book in the Hebrew Bible.

True (); False (())

18. The books of 1 and 2 Kings were originally one book in the Septuagint.

True (); False (())

19. The book of Esther provides the basis for the Feast of Purim.

20. The book of Ruth does not contain the name of God.

True (()); False ()