

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- The most frequent word used for God in the Old Testament. Used to Express God's magnitude or majesty
2. Tetragrammaton- “Four letters” (YHWH)
3. Documentary hypothesis- A hypothesis created by scholarly skeptics trying to explain who the authors of the Pentateuch are and when they penned it. The Documentary Hypothesis is split up in 4 basic sources: J, E, D, P.
4. Pentateuch- a word used to refer to the first 5 books of the Bible's Old Testament
5. Election- God's sovereign to choose or pick out
6. Theodicy- a branch of philosophy dealing with the issue of evil in light of the existence of God
7. Theocracy- a people or nation that is ruled by God
8. transcendent- to exist above and independent from. God is the only being that is truly transcendent
9. monotheism- the worship of one God
10. Decalogue- the 10 commandments from God to His people the Israelites
11. Masorettes- Jewish scribes who helped preserve the Old Testament scriptures and recorded about Jewish traditions
12. lex taliones
13. typology- a person or thing in the Old Testament foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament
14. Satan- The leader of all spiritual forces that are against YHWH
15. Protoevangelion- a messianic interpretation of the text
16. Patriarchs- one who governs his family or descendants by paternal right

17.J Source- Yahwist document. The name Yahweh primarily used as the name for God. Written in the 9th Century by Judean author

18.Priestly Source- this literature is arranged in a uniform style containing ritualistic text, genealogical tables, statistics, laws, prescriptions. Produced by priest after the exile. 500-450 B.C.

19.E Source- Elohist document. Refers to God by the name Elohim. Mainly written in the 8th Century by Israelites in the Northern Kingdom

20.D Source- Deuteronomistic source (the book of Deuteronomy and former prophets). Produced during the time of King Josiah. 630-600 B.C.

21.Toledoth- "this is the account of"/"generations"/"account"

22.El Shaddai- Almighty God

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?

The Documentary Hypothesis is an attempt to explain what seems to some, contradictions or different styles of literature found in the Pentateuch. The documentary hypothesis is compiled into four basic sources. The J Source is said to be written by a Judean author in 9th Century that primarily uses the name Yahweh for God. Another sources is E, this one is supposed to be written in the 8th Century by an Israelite in the Northern Kingdom, it uses the name Elohim for God. The third source is the D or Deuteronomistic Source. This is dated to the time of King Josiah (630-600 B.C.). Yahweh is the name used for God and the central location of the temple for worship. The final source is P or Priestly. These are thought to be written by a priest after the exile (500-450 B.C.). One of the passages that was a concern for the people that ascribe to this view is Genesis 1. They viewed that there were two different creation accounts, one being theocentric (God-centered) and the other anthropocentric (Earth-centered). The Documentary Hypothesis was conceived out of a time of rationalism and skepticism in which people believed that God did not intervene in creation. So without prophets, miracles or divine inspiration they were trying to figure out how man could have written the Pentateuch. I do not see a strength to this view but do find it fascinating how creative and trusting in their own thinking people can be when their aim is to leave God out of the formula and not trust Him.

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?

Outline

1. God created (Gen 1-2)
2. Man sinned/ Need of redemption (Gen 3-11)
3. God calls Abram to establish a people through whom redemption will come (Gen 12-45)
4. Abraham's descendants in Egypt (Genesis 45-50)

Some of the major characters of the book are God, Adam, Eve, Satan, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. One of the major themes that we see in Genesis is the idea of monotheism. This is not only in the sense that only one god is worshipped but that there is only one God. This one God is creator of all that we see in Genesis 1 & 2. This one God deserves and desires the worship of all just as is implied in Genesis 12:2 when He tells Abram "and I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

Another major theme is sin. This rebellion against the one true God causes great separation between God and people as we see when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. We see that God does not just ignore sin, but the sinner becomes the subject of His wrath because He is a righteous judge (Gen 3). In the remainder of Genesis we see God setting forth a plan to bring people back in fellowship with Him but not ignoring the sin deserving of His wrath.

One critical issue with academic examination of the book of Genesis is that the account of creation, growing population and flood has similarities to Mesopotamia literature. The Mesopotamia writings are older so it is thought by critics that Israel simply adapted these writings to fit their monotheistic views. When both writings are studied it is seen that there are many more differences than similarities with the understanding that Genesis is God's account of these periods of history we can know that it is true. The fact that there are similar accounts only validates that these events did take place, critics continue to discredit what God says but this is not surprising since this was the same approach Satan took in the garden with Eve- "Did God actually say..." (Gen 3:2).

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

Outline:

1. Israel enslaved in Egypt/ God revealed through plagues (Ex 1-12:36)
2. God expels His people from Egypt/ God's covenant and law (Ex 12:37-31)
3. Israel breaks God's covenant with the golden calf (32-33)
4. God renews the covenant/ construction of and God's presence in the tabernacle (34-40)

Major Themes:

There are four main characters in the book of Exodus. God himself (fleshed out as YHWH), Moses, Aaron and the Pharaoh (who was considered the incarnation of Egyptian god Rah). One of the major themes of Exodus is YHWH using the plagues and exodus of Israel from Egypt to reveal Himself to not only Israel but the world. Through the plagues we see that YHWH is greater than the god of the mightiest nation at the time. This truth is more fully depicted by the fact that YHWH even hardened Pharaoh's heart. In the book of Genesis God made a covenant with Abraham to make him into a great nation that would bless the world. We are able to see here with the Exodus of Israel that YHWH not only remembers His covenants but keeps them.

There are a couple of issues that scholars have in studying the book of Exodus. One issue is determining the century in which it took place. There are two basic positions: the Early Date and Late Date views. The

Early Date view understands that God's word is true including the date that it gives. In 1 Kings 6:1 it states that the Exodus was 480 years before the 4th year of Solomon's reign. Also Judges 11:26 states that Israel had occupied Canaan for 300 years before Jephthah was judge, both of these dates bring the Exodus around 1440 B.C.

The Late Date also holds the view that civilizations like Edom, Ammon and Moab were not in existence in the 15th Century so Israel could not have encountered them. The Late Date base their hypothesis off from incomplete "archaeological evidence" and the assumption that the Bible is not true and can be symbolized to meet their desired view. This view places the Exodus between 1350-1225B.C. They view the 480 years in 1 Kings 6:1 as symbolic for 12 generations. Each generation being about 25 years so the actual calculation is 300 years.

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

Outline:

1. Moses reviews Israel's past (Deut 1-4)
2. Moses reviews God's laws for Israel (Deut 5-26)
3. Moses speaks to Israel about the promised land (Deut 27-30)
4. Moses' final words to Israel (Deut 31-34)

Major Themes:

-The law

-The central sanctuary

- History as theology

- The retribution principle

Some of the theological themes that Deuteronomy add to the Pentateuch are as follows: After reviewing the law we see the responsibility that God gives man to continue to reveal God and His ways to the following generations (Deut 6), Verse 12 shows that the purpose of this is that they would not forget the LORD.

In Deuteronomy 12 we see that God tells Israel to destroy the many places of worship of the land that they are entering. There is only to be one place of worship or one dwelling place for God. This continues to depict that there is only one true God.

God places before the people of Israel in Chapter 28 blessings for obedience to Him and curses for disobedience. Then in Chapter 30 we see God summarize this as life and death and the choice is the peoples. However, in Deut 30:19-20 we see clearly the desire of God's heart. God's desire is that the people would choose life!

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

Outline

1. Escape to Moab/ death to Elimelech and sons (1:1-5)
2. Ruth's commitment to Naomi and God/ Return to Bethlehem (1:6-22)
3. Protection and food for Ruth (2)
4. Ruth's desire for redemption made known (3)
5. Boaz redeems Ruth/son is born (4:1-17)
6. The genealogy of Perez (4:18-22)

The major emphasis of the book of Ruth: Love and grace that culminates into redemption. This is displayed through two of God's righteous laws (goel and levirate marriage) and obedient servants of God.

The law of the goel redeemer is found in Lev 25:25-28. This law preserves the land for a family through a close relative purchasing it or the land is returned in the year of Jubilee. Deuteronomy 25:5-10 is where the law of levirate marriage is found. This law preserves the family lineage through a brother or close relative marrying the widow and bearing offspring for the deceased brother.

When the husbands of Naomi and Ruth died, Naomi tells Ruth that she has nothing to offer her and that she should return to her father's house. Ruth shows great hesed (love, loyalty, mercy) toward Naomi when stating "where you go I will go, where you lodge I will lodge, your people will be my people and your God my God." After returning to Bethlehem Ruth meets a righteous man, Boaz, who in the course of time purchases the land of Naomi's deceased husband; he fulfills the goel redeemer law. Boaz also marries Ruth and bears descendants for her deceased husband, fulfilling the Levirate marriage law. This is a beautiful depiction of the ruin of a family being redeemed to their land and lineage, ultimately foreshadowing the redemption of ruined people by sin to a God of great hesed by redeeming them to Himself through the sacrifice of His son Jesus.

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. (x) True ; () False
2. One of the major themes of the book of Exodus is the supremacy of Yahweh over pagan deities. (x) True ; () False
3. The Decalogue or the Ten Commandments is found in the book of Exodus and the book of Deuteronomy. (x) 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.

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.

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 Chapters 1 and 26 .

12. The book of Numbers is called Ba Midbar in the Septuagint.

13. The parts of the book of Deuteronomy are similar to that of a vassal

treaty.

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

True (); False (x)

15. One of the major themes of the book of Ruth is hesed.

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

True (); False (x)

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

True (x); False ()

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

True (); False (x)

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 (x); False ()