

Alliance Theological Seminary
OT 504.NA Hebrew Bible in the Eastern Mediterranean World
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Hebrew Bible in the Eastern Mediterranean World Midterm Examination

Part One: Define all of the following.

1. Case /casuistic law : is based on precedents and is usually in the form of “ if/then ” conditional statements and types of punishments to be given out. One of the two types of laws noted in the Hebrew Law code.

2. Apodictic law : encompasses absolute general commands rendered from “ on high “ as “ thou shall nots “ the ten commandments are a prime example of Apodictic Law. One of the two types of laws noted in the Hebrew Law Code.

1. Code of Hammurabi : is a Babylonian legal text. It is the longest best organized and best preserved legal text from the ancient near east. Major laws in the code include slander, trade slavery duties of workers, theft liability and divorce.

2. Suzerainty-vassal treaty – a treaty between two unequal parties. The more powerful party is the suzerainty and the party with less power is the vassal. Sometimes parties are referred “ father and son ”, “ lord and servant ” or “ King and Vassal ”. An example of this is the covenant between God and Israel.

3. Holiness Code : designating the collection of laws in Leviticus 17-26. The code stresses that the people of Israel are separated from the rest of the world because Yahweh (God) has chosen them.

4. Historiography – the writing of history, especially the writing of history based on the critical examination of sources

5. the selection of particular details from the authentic materials in those sources, and the synthesis of those details into a narrative that stands the test of critical examination. The term historiography also refers to the theory and history of historical writing.

6. Documentary Hypothesis: Is a theory also known as JEDP, that states that the first five books of the bible, called the Pentateuch consisting of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy were not written completely by Moses but by different authors.

7. Deuteronomic/Deuteronomistic History: is a modern theoretical construct holding that behind the present forms of the books of Deuteronomy and Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings (the Former Prophets in the Hebrew canon)there was a single literary work.

8. Kathleen Kenyon : an archeologist that discovered pottery shreds, burned grains in jars, broken walls, destroyed towers and more, which led into her ultimate conclusion and discovery of Jericho. (1952-1958)

9. Jericho : is a palestinian city in the west bank. It is located in the Jordan valley, with the Jordan river to the east and Jeruslasem to the west. In the bible, the book of Joshua the battle of Jericho was fought by the Israelities in the course of the conquest of the canaan.

10. Iron Age : A prehistoric period that followed the bronze age where weapons and tools came to be made of iron.

11. Judge : a public official appointed to decide cases in a court of law. The Hebrew term shofet which is translated in English as “ judge ” is closer in meaning to “ ruler ”. A kind of military leader of deliverer from potential or actual defeat.

12. Hittites : a member of the Ancient people who established an empire in Asia minor and Syria that flourished from 1700-1200 BC. The Anatoli language of the hittites, the earliest attested indo-european language written in both hieroglyphics and cuneiform scripts. It was deciphered in the earliest 20th century.

13. Concubine : A woman with whom a man cohabites without being married. A woman having a recognized social status in a household below that of a wife.

14. Pentateuch : is a term used to describe the first five books of the bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) which is Believe to have been written by Moses.
16. Hebron: Is a Palestinian city in the southern west bank south of Jerusalem. According to tradition Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, with their wives Sarah, Rebekah, and Leah are buried there.
17. Jael: a woman who killed Sisera by hammering a tint pin into his head as he slept. (Judges 4 : 17-22)
18. Tobit : the elder father of Tobias. A book of scripture included in the roman catholic canon of the Old Testament and in the protestant apocrypha
19. Herem : as used in the Tanakh, means something devoted to God. Or under a ban, and sometimes refers to things or people to be utterly destroyed.
20. Tamar: In the bible story is embedded in the ancestor narratives of Genesis, is the Ancestress of much of Judah and in particular of the house of David. A character with the name Tamar Is also found in 2 Samuel were she is rape by Amnon (her brother)

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.

Answer : The world of the ancient near east is known as the world of the bible. I believe the best way to sum up the conceptual differences that defines the worlds view of the ancient near east are found in a quote from the text. This quote is found in the book " Social World of Ancient Israel " by Victor Matthews and Don Benjamin and it states " the world of the bible, for example, is ancient: our world is modern. It is an Eastern world; ours is Western. The world of the Bible is virtually changeless, our world is ever changing. It is agricultural, ours is industrial. Biblical people think of their goods and resources as limited. We consider ours renewable. They think of themselves as households, we think of ourselves as individuals. In their world old age is a blessing, in our world it is a burden. Their favorite genre of literature is story; ours is history. And perhaps the most difficult of all for us to understand, in the world of the bible there is no

separation between religion and daily life or between church and state. " this shows a lot of differences between the world we live in today and the ancient biblical world.

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

Answer : The books of the Pentateuch are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Some of the major themes of the Pentateuch are creation, covenant, and the laws for humanity.

Creation

In the book of Genesis (the first book of the bible), it starts off with the story of God's creation. In Genesis 1:1 it states " God created the heavens and the earth." In Genesis 1:20-25 it states " God created the fish and the sea, birds, livestock and the wild animals. " In Genesis 2:7 it states " the Lord formed a man from dust " In Genesis 2:22 it states " God made a woman with a rib he taken out of a man ". The story of creation is an important one because it tells us how humankind got here. It is also important for us to understand the relationship between God and humankind.

The Laws for Humanity

After God was done with creation, he noticed that the people of the world were not acting God-like. Instead they were acting evil and not like God. In Genesis 6 it states " the Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth and that every inclination of thoughts of the human heart was evil all the time. " these wicked behaviors led God to develop laws (rules) for people to follow. This also led to covenants between God and humans. These laws include the 10 commandments found in Exodus 2: 2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. God also gave rules/laws as to how people are to live in Leviticus 18 and Leviticus 19, and Deuteronomy chapters 4,6 and 12 just to name a few.

The Covenant

The covenant has been used to strengthen humankind relationships with God. A covenant is an agreement between God and mankind that if the people remain faithful to God's rules and laws then he would protect them and they would be blessed. Some examples of covenants found in the bible are those God made with Noah (Genesis 9:9-15), Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21), and David (2 Samuel 7:8-16). However the most talked about covenant in the bible is between God and the people of Israel (Exodus 19-24)

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

Answer : The book of Judges takes place in a time between Joshua and the book of Samuels, during which judges were served as leaders. Before Israel had kings they were ruled by judges. The book of Judges tells stories about the people of Israel not being faithful to God and being punished by their actions. God then allowed their enemies to conquer them. The people then repent and asked God for mercy. God sends a leader in a form of a judge who delivers the Israelites from their enemies and the people temporarily prosper until they again fall into unfaithfulness and the cycle is repeated.

Two of the major themes found in the book of judges are God's Sovereignty and the people of Israel being punished for their unfaithfulness

God's Sovereignty

Despite the unfaithfulness of the people of Israel, after the people repented from their sins, God saved them. God accomplished this by raising up a ruler (a judge) that defeated their enemies. God could have let them perish by not sending help to them, due to their unfaithful actions. However, God shows his sovereignty, his mercy and his grace by saving the people of Israel despite their unfaithfulness.

Unfaithfulness

The Israelites started sinning against God by adopting the Canaanites way of living. This led them to become morally corrupt. These actions broke the covenant that God had with the people of Israel, so God allowed their enemies to defeat them. This is a way that God showed the people of Israel that there is a punishment if you don't honor the covenant and follow God's laws and commandments.

4. List the major views of the Conquest. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of each view.

Answer : The conquest is a term that is used to reference in the bible when Joshua and the Israelites were instructed by God to conquer the land of Canaan in order for them to receive their promise land (Genesis 12:1-3). Some of the major views of the conquest are :

1. The fulfillment of God's promise to the people of Israel

2. The unfaithfulness of humans to not keep God's laws, rules and commandments

The strengths for the first view are the realization of God's promise to the people of Israel being fulfilled. This is confirmation that God always fulfills promises he makes to his people. This is proof that when you make a covenant with God, he will always fulfill his commitment to his people. The weakness of the first view is that the fulfillment of God's promise comes at the detriment of the people of Canaan. To accomplish God's promise, Joshua and the people of Israel had to go to war with the Canaanites causing death and destruction along the way. This seems out of character for a God that is for mercy and love. A strength of the second view is despite the Israelites practicing some of the immoral behaviors of the Canaanites, God continued to send them leaders (Judges) who led them to victory over their enemies, after the Israelites repented for their sins. This is an example of God's sovereignty, mercy and love. 2 Chronicles 7:14 states " if my people, who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and heal their land". A weakness in the second view is that if the Israelites adopted the wicked and immoral ways of the Canaanites, then why did God only rescue the Israelites? Some people may argue that both groups of people are God's children, therefore both groups of people should have been shown mercy and grace.

Part Three: Choose the correct answer.

1. Which of the following apply to an examination of the world of the ancient near east:

- a. The world of the Bible is an ancient and not a modern world
- b. The world of the Bible is an eastern and not western world.
- c. The world of the Bible is a changeless and not a changing world.
- d. The world of the Bible is a communal, not an individual world.
- e. None of the above
- f. All of the above.

2. Hospitality and its connected social rules for hosts and strangers were an important of the ancient near east.

True: False

1. Hospitality neutralized the threat which stranger posed by temporarily adopting them into the community.

True: False

4. The following are models for the interpretation for the conquest of Canaan:

- a. peasant revolt of conquest
- b. immigration model of conquest
- c. Blitzkrieg model of conquest
- d. none of the above
- e. All of the above

5. Herem is the term used in the book of Joshua for the total destruction of a captured city.

True: False

6. The Documentary Hypothesis asserts that the Pentateuch is comprised of the following sources:

- a. J source
- b. E source
- c. D Source
- d. P source
- e. JE source
- f. All of the above
- g. Answers a, b, c and d

7. Deuteronomy 28 consists of curses and blessings for obedience and disobedience to the covenant.

True: False

8. One can find an example of case or casuistic law in the Ten Commandments.

True: False

9. One can find an example of apodictic law in the Ten Commandments.

True: False

10. The structure of the book of Deuteronomy contains the components of the suzerainty-vassal treaty.

True: False

11. Archaeologists have discovered that the earliest Israelite settlements consisted of small hamlets with 50 to 300 people dwelling on an acre or two.

12. The first commandment given to humankind is found in the 10 Commandments.

True: False

13. The first commandment given to humankind is Genesis 1:27 and 28 (be fruitful and multiply).

14. Hebron, as David's original power base, plays an important role in the actions of ABSALOM.

15. The natural environment in which the early Israelite families established their farmsteads was far less friendly than the popular imagination supposes.
(X) True: () False

16. In most villages herding and farming involved only the men.
() True: (X) False

17. One important roles of the mother that was not gender specific was her responsibility as the MANAGER of he household.

18. The mother was the following in ancient Israel:

- a. () Child-bearer
- b. () Teacher
- c. () Mediator
- d. () Priest
- e. () All of the above
- f. () None of the above
- g. (X) a, b, and c

19. Throughout Syria-Palestine there are only two seasons, wet and dry.
(X) True: () False

20. Any serious threat to the land or pollution of a village could set the protocol for the commissioning of a JUDGE or CHIEF in motion.