

Alliance Theological Seminary
OT 504.NA Hebrew Bible in the Eastern Mediterranean World
Spring 2022
Monday 6:15 - 9:10 PM
Cleotha Robertson, Ph.D., D.Min.
Cleotha.Robertson@Nyack.edu

Name: Jeffery Gurley
Box:

Final Examination

Part One: Short Answer

Directions: Identify each of the following

1. threshing floor : in scripture is a place of separation and revelation. A place where the harvest was prepared by separating the grain from the useless straw for the purpose of exposing and collecting the most valuable part of the crop
2. bethulah : is the Hebrew word for virgin and cannot be found anywhere in the original Hebrew text.
3. Mesopotamia : the name given by the Greeks and Romans to the región between the Euphrates and the Tigris. The northern portion of this fertile plateau was the original home of the ancestors of the Hebrews.
4. Meribaal: According to the Books of Samuel of the Tanakh, Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan, grandson of Saul and father of Micah. 1 Chron 8:34 and 1 Chron 9:40 state his name is Merib-baal, and his son as Micah.
5. patrilocal: relating to a pattern of marriage in which the couple settles in the husbands home or community.
6. Tanak : is the Hebrew bible, the canonical collection of Jewish texts, which is also the textual source for most of the Christian Old Testament. It is an acronym, made of the initial consonants of the Hebrew words Torah (the law, Pentateuch or Five Books of Moses), Nev'im (prophets), and Ketuvim (writings).
7. Concubinage : the practice of keeping a concubine: the state of being a concubine

8. midwife : those who in patriarchal times attended mothers at childbirth are so named in Genesis 35:17,38:28,Exodus1:15-22.

9. herem : is the highest ecclesiastical censure in the Jewish community. It is the total exclusion of a person from the Jewish community. It is a form of shunning. As used in the Tanakh, means something devoted to God, or under a ban, and sometimes refers to things or persons to be utterly destroyed.

10. Monarchy : is a political system in which supreme authority is vested in the monarch, an individual ruler who functions as head of state.

11. Patriarchy : a system of society or government in which the father or eldest male is head of the family and descent is traced through the male line.

12. Levirate marriage : is a type of marriage in which the brother of a deceased man is obliged to marry his brother's widow .Levirate marriage has been practiced by societies with a strong clan structure in which exogamous marriage (marriage outside the clan) is forbidden.

13. Bronze Age: a historical period, approximately 3300 BC to 1200 BC, that was characterized by the use of bronze, in some areas proto-writing, and other early features of urban civilization. The bronze age marked the first time humans started to work with metal. Bronze tools and weapons soon replaced earlier stone versions. Ancient summerians in the middle east may have been the first people to enter the bronze age.

14. Imlk seal : are ancient Hebrew seals stamped on the handles of large storage jars first issued in the reign of King Hezekiah and discovered mostly in and around Jersusalem.

15. goel : redeemer, reclaimant especially:a next of kin upon whom according to ancient Hebrew custom developed certain family rights and duties including the avenging of murdered kin's blood and the redemption of the person or property of a relative in debt or helpless circumstances

16. matrilocal : is the societal system in which a married couple resides with or near the wifes parents. Thus, the female offspring of a mother remain living in (or near) the mothers house, thereby forming large clan families.

17. Clan : a group of close-knit and interrelated families. A group of people tracing descendants from a common ancestor (family)

18. tribe : a social division in a traditional society consisting of families or communities linked by social, economic, religious or blood ties, with a common culture and dialect, typically having a recognized leader

19. Anat : is a major northwest semitic goddess. Her attributes vary widely among different cultures and over time, and even within particular myths. She likely influenced the character of the Greek goddess Athena. Is a prominent figure in the Canaanite mythological texts, dating to c.1400 Bce, discovered at Ugarit on the Syrian Coast. She is a maiden/warrior goddess, the sister or consort of the fertility and storm god Baal.a

20. Tehom : was the mythological cosmic ocean of Biblical cosmology, covering the Earth until God created the firmament to divide it into upper and lower portions and reveal the dry land ,the world has been protected from the cosmic ocean ever since by the solid dome of the firmament.

Part Two: Answer the following: 100 words minimum

1. List the major themes of Chapter 13 in **Matthews and Benjamin in Social World of Ancient Israel 1250 - 587 BCE**. What are the major points of the chapter? How do these points impact on how you read the Bible? Pick one passage to illustrate this idea? Do you agree or disagree with Matthews? Why or why not?

Answer : The major theme is that the virgin was the most politically significant women as a state. The major points are Virgins as a married or marriageable women, virginity as honor of a household, rape as a political maneuver. These points impact how I read the bible because I never thought of the virginity of a woman as being politically significant. I only thought of virginity as sexual behavior. A quote from the reading states “ Sexual activity in the world of the bible was not as much an aspect of personal relationships as an expression of the political power of households.” (Matthews and Benjamin pg. 176) The passage that helps illustrate this idea comes from the reading Virginity as the honor of the household. The passage states “ Protecting its virgins was a matter of honor for each household. The measure of this honor was the evidence of virginity on the part of the bride at the time when the marriage was consummated. Virginity was the legal guarantee of land and children for a household in the world of the bible. Consequently households guarded their

virgins until they could be married so that their own political status would remain intact. A Lack of virginity due to rape or promiscuity threatened a household's social and economic status." (Matthews and Benjamin, Pg. 178). I agree with Matthews in regards to this point. Marriage was very important during these biblical times and marrying a virgin was put in high regards. A family during these times had to be compensated for losing their daughter to marriage. A woman's virginity was a statement of what kind of household she came from.

2. Summarize the major points in Chapter 4 of **Family in the Bible**. How do these points impact on your reading of the Wisdom Literature? Pick one theme that interests you and explain how it is treated in Chapter 4.

Answer : The major points in chapter 4 are analyzing the book of Proverbs, family in general and the parent-child relationship in particular, the wife-husband relationship, Ecclesiastes and Job on the family, and the Song of songs on the family. These points impact my reading of wisdom literature because I never realized of much emphasis was put on the family in these books of the bible. It is like these scriptures gave instructions, directions, and guidance on how to keep your family strong on every level. The theme that caught my interest is found under the title " Wife-Husband relationship. " On page 91 it states " As the father instructs his son in the first nine chapters, one dominant teaching emerges: avoid immoral women. Proverbs 2:16-22, 3:13-18, 4:4-9,6:20-35, and the entirety of chapters 5 and 7 concern this theme. The father pulls out all the stops to bombard his son with this warning. After all, as he points out to his son, the consequences of this foolish act are dire." In this passage the father is explaining to his son how to choose an appropriate wife. The father helps his son in this process by identifying negative characteristics in a woman that his son should avoid. You cannot have a unified house if you are moral and you marry an immoral woman.

3. List the major themes of Chapter 16 in **Matthews and Benjamin in Social World of Ancient Israel 1250 - 587 BCE**. What are the major points of the chapter? How do these points impact on how you read the Bible? Do you agree or disagree with Matthews' examination of Isaiah 7? Why or why not?

Answer: The major theme of chapter 16 is states delegated the prophet to help them determine which foreign nations were their friends and which were their enemies. The major points are classical prophets, ecstasy, telling the future, prophets and monarchs, forced prophets, verdicts and pantomimes, prophets and elders, prophets and messengers, and prophets and chiefs. I do agree with Matthews examination of Isiah 7. On page 222 it states " A key assumption in Isaiah's argument is the tradition which considers the city of Jerusalem, and Zion, its citadel, impregnable. Yahweh will faithfully fulfill his commitment to protect Jerusalem from its enemies. If Jerusalem is impregnable, then Syria and Israel pose no real threat to Judah. Another important component of Isaiah's argument is the tradition which considers Judah to have only one covenant, its covenant

with Yahweh. This covenant with Yahweh recognizes Yahweh alone as monarch of Judah. And as a monarch, it is Yahweh's responsibility, not the responsibility of Ahaz, to provide for and to protect the nation." We as people have become to dependent on monarchs (or presidents) to provide and protect for us. We as people, must understand when have a relationship (covenant) with God (Yahweh) and he will provide all of our needs.

4. List the major points of Chapter 4 in **Families Ancient Israel**. What are the major points made by Perdue in the chapter? How do these points impact on how you read the Bible?

Answer: The major point made by Perdue in chapter 4 are sources and the limits of the evidence, the changing character of the family, the functions of the family, the question of a normative form of the family, gender and gender roles in the family, marriage and divorce, the roles of children, the household as a provider of care for members and marginals, religion, the household, and the royal state.

These points impact the way I read the bible because it helps me get an more in depth understanding about how the family operates. It explains how owning land was very economically important, how families educated their children, and how the household over all functioned. This helps me better understand families in ancient Israel. A quote from chapter 4 on page 165 states "The family is complex and diverse even within the same culture, and it is significantly influenced by the changes occurring within its larger sociopolitical and religious world. No social institution, even one as basic as the family, is static and thus insulated against change. Yet, in spite of complex, diverse, and dynamic character of the family, it provides the key institution for understanding the nature and character of human society and social interaction."

Part Three

Directions: Choose or provide the correct answer.

1. One of the roles of the monarch is to _____ **protect the people** ____.

1. A monarch is responsible for raising a stand army to control the local population and to protect and expand borders.

True (); False ()

1. According to Matthews, the virgin was the most politically significant women in Israel as a state.

True (); False ()

1. The following are some of the issues dealing with biblical interpretation.

a. () Maximalist approach'

b. () Minimalist approach

c. () Archaeological approach

- d. () A, B and C
- e. (X) A and B
- f. () None of the above

5. Egypt is the most frequently mentioned foreign nation in the Old Testament.
True (X); False ()

1. In the prophetic literature, one notes the use of Herder or Shepherd as a metaphor to describe Yahweh and his relationship to Israel.

1. Tribe, Clan and the family household were three primary units of social organization in ancient Israel.

8. One of the major functions of the family in ancient Israel was reproduction.
True (X); False ()

1. One of the major functions of the family in ancient Israel was the education of children.
True (X); False ()

10. List 3 major prophets.

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

11. Maintaining social stability was one of the major features of the family.
True (X); False ()

12. The economic character of the family was never an important feature in the Ancient Near East.
True (); False (X)

13. Central to family values was the emphasis placed on solidarity grounded in the interdependence of the members that was necessary for survival and continuity.
True (X); False ()

14. Familial land ownership was the economic base of Israelite and early Jewish households.
True (X); False ()

15. Most Education occurred within the household through the oral transmission of knowledge and skills relating to household tasks, social customs and religious tradition.

16. Prior to state formation, Israelite households within their larger clans established a protective agency of defense against military invaders who threatened them.

True (); False ()

17. Within the household, the father was responsible for maintaining order, adjudicating disputes, arranging marriages, assigning household, maintaining the economic and social support.

18. The three primary units of social organization shaped by kinship structures are the Tribe, Clan, and the family household.

19. Throughout their lives, men were subordinate to women in the clans of the ancient near east.

True (); False ()

20. In the ancient near east, education is the power to influence the people (to promote the ideology of the state pg 168 of Matthews).

21. The name provided evidence of the social standing of a person's household.

True (); False ()

22. In the world of the Bible, Virginity was not simply an accessory reflecting individual style or personal preference, but could reflect one's status.

23. In the world of the Bible, Story Telling was used to preserve and pass on traditions.

24. The storyteller, the scribe, and the sage performed stories which served two important functions.

True (); False ()

25. Storytellers helped monarchs resolve crises which threatened the land and people

True (); False ()