

Alliance Theological Seminar.
The Pentateuch
OT 620.NA-Pentateuch (English) OT
720.NA-Pentateuch (Hebrew) Spring 2022
Tuesday 5:30- 8:30 PM
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Midterm Examination

Part One: Define all of the following terms (20 points).

1. Elohim – The Hebrew word for God used in the Old Testament for the one and only God of Israel. It is used in plural to mean Gods. El is one form of the name. Elohim is used 32 times in Genesis and 2500 times in the Old Testament.
2. Tetragrammaton – The Hebrew word for the four letters that represent the name: YHWH. The name revealed to Moses. Uses 398 times in Exodus.
3. Documentary hypothesis: The theory that the Pentateuch: first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy were not all written by Moses but were a compilation of different authors.
4. Pentateuch - The first five books of the Hebrew Bible, the Old Testament; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. They are the traditional books of the Torah and reflect Jewish law and traditions.
5. Monotheism: The belief in the existence of only one God or deity.
6. Decalogue: Another name for the Ten Commandments. The commandments given to Moses by God.
7. lex taliones: The law of retaliation. In the Bible refers to the principle of an “eye for an eye”. When crimes were committed, Israelites could apply this law. Leviticus 24:19-21.
8. typology: Biblical interpretation that looks for themes and patterns in characteristics across different stories in the Bible. The most common being the history, the literary structure, the legal and the prophecies.
9. Satan: Refers to an angel of the Lord who may be an adversary. According to Hamilton, Satan is not who he is but what he is. He does not merit a name and at that time it meant he was reduced to nonexistence.
10. Protoevangelium/Protoevangelium: Refers to the “good news”. Proto means good and evangelion meaning good news. In Genesis 3:15. It is the first reference to the promise of salvation.

11. Toledoth: Hebrew for generations or descendants. In Genesis the “toledoth” is present when it refers to the generations of Adam, Noah, the sons of Noah, Shem, Terah, Ishmael, Isaac, Essau and Jacob. According to VonGemern, the teledot provides a way to look at the past as a series of interrelated events.
12. El Shaddai: Hebrew word used in the bible to refer to God as the “God Almighty”, or “All-Sufficient” One. One of the names of God. God revealed this name to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
13. Enuma Eilsh: Mythological literature from ancient Babylonia based on the on god Marduk battle with goddess Tiamat (goddess of chaos) and the creation of the world.
14. Code of Hammurabi: A set of laws created by the Babylonian King in the 18th century. These included laws on contracts, family, and common life. There are 282 laws, and they are written in If, then form. If someone does something this happens. Some laws are like the laws in the book of Deuteronomy.
15. Nuzi Texts: A collection of ancient documents discovered in the ruins of the city of Nuzi in modern-day Iraq. They provide information on the social history of the region. They are important for the parallels between the Bible and these texts.

Part Two : Answer any 3 of the following essay questions. Each essay should contain at least 200 words (60 points)..

THE RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS ARE AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.

Part Three: Choose or Provide the correct answer.

1. According to Hamilton, one of the important phrases in the book of Leviticus that begins 20 of the 27 chapters of Leviticus is the following:
 - a. () These are the generations of.
 - b. () These are commanded by the Lord
 - c. (X) The Lord said to Moses
 - d. () These are the commandments that the Levites must do

2. The first 10 chapters of Leviticus are devoted to a description of the sacrifices ordained by God.
True (X); False ()

3. In Leviticus 1-7, **the burnt animal/peace offerings** offering is the only offering that is given completely to YHWH.

4. Leviticus like the names of the other books of the **Pentateuch** is borrowed from the Greek translation of the Bible.

5. Leviticus **17-27** contains practical prescriptions for holiness.

6. According to Hamilton, the idea of being “fruitful and multiplying” is a theme that is introduced uniquely to Abraham and reiterated in Exodus 1.
True (X); False ()

7. According to Hamilton, the name Moses’ contains both Hebrew, Greek, and Egyptian languages.
True (); False (X)

8. There are similarities in the events of the lives of the following:
 - a. (X) Moses and Jacob
 - b. () Pharaoh and Esau
 - c. () Joseph and Esau
 - d. () None of above
 - e. () All of the above.

9. According to Hamilton, the divine purpose of the plagues is the following
 - a. () The liberation of Israel
 - b. (X) A display of the power of YHWH
 - c. () To develop a belief in YHWH only
 - d. () To aid Pharaoh, Egypt and the Israelites to acquire knowledge of the one True God

10. According to Alexander, Exodus is essentially a book about knowing God through personal experience.

True (X) False ()

11. Exodus continues the story of the people of God that is started in **Geneis**.

12. According the Alexander, the following are themes in the book of Exodus:

a. () The divine presence of God that is revealed and symbolized by smoke and fire.

b. () The Holiness of God

c. () Worship at Sinai

d. () None of the above

e. (X) A, B and C

13. According to Alexander, aspects of God's nature are highlighted by **different names used to designate him: El Elyon ("God Most High," Gen. 14:18–20), El Roi ("God who sees me," Gen. 16:13), El Shaddai ("God Almighty," Gen. 17:1), El Olam ("God Everlasting," Gen. 21:33). Here God introduces himself by using the personal name "Yahweh," translated in most English versions as "the Lord" (Exod. 3:15).[415].**

14. According to Wenham, "**YHWH**" is the name that God used when He revealed Himself to the patriarchs.

15. The most frequently occurring designation or name for God in the Old Testament is El.

True () False (X)

16. According to Hamilton the 3-month journey from Egypt to Sinai was a time of delight and carefree communion due to the intervention of Yahweh.

True () ; False (X)

17. During the 3 month journey there were **four and maybe five (if Moses health is included)** crises for the Israelites.

18. According to Blenkinsopp the events in the Pentateuch cover the following amount of time:

a. () 11 months

b. (X) Approximately 3 thousand years.

c. () 5 months

d. () None of the above.

19. 8 of the 10 commandments are positive prohibitions. True () ;

False (X)

20. 8 of the 10 laws of the Decalogue are **negative**.

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 the theory that the Pentateuch: first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy were not all written by Moses but were a compilation of different authors. The origins of this source criticism became the tool for the study of the Pentateuch.

The Older Documentary hypothesis came from Jean Astruc who argued Moses compiled Genesis from older documents. Later on Karl David Ilgen suggested Genesis was composed of seventeen individual documents. These were known as J, E, D, and P. J source (Yahwist) being responsible for most of Genesis such as the creation and the story of Adam and Eve. E is the Elohist (Hebrew word for God) source and wrote other parts of Genesis, the call of Moses, Exodus and Numbers. D (the Deuteronomist) wrote almost all of Deuteronomy and the importance of God's laws. P (the Priestly source) and focuses on the rituals and duties of priests.

The Documentary hypothesis examines the first five books by inconsistencies, repetitions or doublets: the same incident written more than once, stylistic differences. The inconsistencies are seen in the variations in the names used for God in Genesis and Exodus ("Yahweh," "Elohim," "El Shaddai," "El Elyon," ect. There are inconsistencies in the age when Abraham left Haram. The repetitions occur in Genesis 1-2, where in 1:27, "it says God created man in his own image," but then in 2:7, "the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground," The stylistic differences are apparent in Exodus where some is written in narrative form but in chapters of Jeremiah have a historical style. Leading to the conclusion that these had to be written by different authors.

The strengths of the documentary hypothesis is that it provides explanations for the differences and inconsistencies by breaking up the documents and classifying the structure and style. It also provides a degree of understanding for the development of the first five books.

The weaknesses of the documentary hypothesis is the lack of evidence of different sources and the difficulty to know exactly where and when each source was written.

- 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?

The Book of Genesis is the first book of the Hebrew bible and the Old Testament. It covers the period of the creation of the world to the death of Joseph in Egypt. The book of Genesis has been studied by many scholars and most agree that it was written by Moses. The major themes in the book of Genesis are the creation of the world, the relationship established by God with all humans, how sin was introduced by Adam and Eve, the stories of the major characters in Genesis and the covenants God makes with Noah, Abraham and Isaac.

The major character is God as the story begins with God and creating the world. Adam and Eve are the first human beings and disobey God and begin sin and at the same time the opportunity to be forgiven. Noah is another major character as he is ordered to save the world by repopulating it once God does away with those who have lost all morality. Abraham who is chosen by God to be the father of a nation and Sarah his wife who gives birth to Isaac. God makes a covenant with Abraham to give him descendants. Isaac the son of Abraham who is a symbol of Abraham's faith and loyalty to God. Jacob who is Isaac's son and steals his brother Esau's blessing. And Joseph the son of Jacob who was sold to Egyptians by his brothers and later saved his family from the famine.

The critical issues in Genesis lie in the fact that it has survived for many years although the certainty of who the author was as is still in question and constant debate. The historical aspect and the accuracy of the information in the text. Most believe the book relates historical facts while some scholars have argued it has many inconsistencies.

The biggest strength is the longevity of the text as it is still being studied and examined. It gives an insight into the culture, traditions and beliefs of that time. It sets the foundation of many religions and the roots of many laws that are now in our society. It gives us the beginning of theologies to study and research.

The weakness of the issues are the accuracy of the history and the interpretation that is left to develop all sorts of theologies.

3. Discuss the character of Abraham as detailed in the book of Genesis. How much of the book of Genesis details the life of Abraham? How is the promise of Abraham developed in the life of Abraham and the rest of the book of Genesis? How is Abraham depicted in Genesis? Note both his strengths and

weaknesses?

Abraham is one of the most important characters in the Book of Genesis. Genesis introduces Abraham through the lineage of his father Terah. The Book of Genesis details almost two hundred and twenty years of his life. Abraham's life is detailed when God calls Abraham to make his journey from Haran to Canan with the promise to make his people a great nation. His travels with Sarah as his wife and the issues that arise as they travel. Abraham afraid to be killed asking Sarah to say she was his sister and God revealing this In a dream to King Abimelech and he returns Sarah to Abraham fearing God's wrath. Abraham and Sarah not being able to have a child and having Ismael born from Hagar the servant until God allows Sarah to have Isaac. Abraham's test of faith when God asks him to sacrifice his son. Abraham dies at 175 years old.

The promise of Abraham is developed in different covenants with God. First when God call for Abraham to leave his home and go to a new land. It continues as Abraham makes sacrifices and obeys the law of circumcision for him and his family and in his obedience to sacrifice Isaac.

Abraham is depicted as a man of great faith and loyal to God. His strengths are shown in how he trusts God with all his heart is obedient to his commands. At the same time. Abraham's humanity is revealed in his imperfections as he lies about Sarah being his wife to save himself. He also takes Hagar the servant to have a child instead of believing Sarah could have a child.

Abraham is a major character in Genesis and the Bible as he is the chosen one to bring Israel to a deep relationship with God. He is anointed and protected by God but at the same time is human and his character displays the complexity of human nature.