Alliance Theological Seminary
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 - Hebrew word primarily for God or gods in the bible.

2. Tetragrammaton - "I AM" - YHWH - the name of God in the Hebrew bible from the verb "to be."

3. Documentary hypothesis - "The view that the Pentateuch consists of three or four main documents intertwined together." [Wenham, *Exploring the Old Testament*, 200]

4. Pentateuch - Considered to be the five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

5. monotheism - The belief that there is only one (G/g)od.

6. Decalogue - The ten commandments found in Exodus 20.

7. lex taliones - "The legal principle of exact retribution, 'an eye for an eye', but not necessarily enforced literally." [Wenham, Exploring the Old Testament, 201]

8. typology - "A way of reading Scripture that sees events or people in one era foreshadowing or echoing events or people in another era" [Wenham, Exploring the Old Testament, 202]. Usually looks at OT events, persons, or statements as types/antitypes of Christ.

9. Satan - In Hebrew, the word can mean 'adversary, accuser'.

10. Protoevangelion/Protevangelium - "Literally, 'the first gospel', i.e. Genesis 3:15 as traditionally understood by Christians to predict the victory of mankind over evil in the person of Christ." [Wenham, Exploring the Old Testament, 201-202]

11. Toledoth - "Thus Genesis is composed of an introductory section, followed by ten more sections, each introduced with the phrase "these are the generations of" (*toledot*)." [Hamilton, *Handbook on the Pentateuch*, 20]

12. El Shaddai - One of the names for God, which could mean 'God Almighty,' 'God of the mountain,' 'God who can destroy,' which first occurs in Genesis 17:1.

13. Enuma Elish - "A Babylonian poem telling of a battle between the gods. It involves some acts of creation." [Wenham, Exploring the Old Testament, 200]

14. Code of Hammurabi - A Babylonian legal text that came from the King of Babylon (1792-1750 BC), which was a collection of laws. [Wenham, Exploring the Old Testament, 200]

15. Nuzi Texts - Ancient documents found at the excavation of Nuzi, an ancient Mesopotamian city, which were mainly legal and business related.

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

Outline based on the toledot structure:

I) Prologue: the story of creation (1:1-2:3)
II) The generations of the heavens and the earth (2:4-4:26)
III) The generations of Adam (5:1-6:8)
IV) The generations of Noah (6:9-9:29)
V) The generations of the sons of Noah (10:1-11:9)
VI) The generations of Shem (11:10-26)
VII) The generations of Terah (11:27-25:11)
VIII) The generations of Ismael (25:12-18)
IX) The generations of Isaac (25:19-35:29)
X) The generations of Esau (36:1-37:1)
XI) The generations of Jacob (37:2-50:26)

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Some of the major themes of Genesis are the doctrine of God, the doctrine of humanity/sin, creation, salvation, and patriarchs/covenant. This is obviously seen with the major characters being God/Lord, Adam/Eve, Noah, and the patriarchs of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, who are very important in the origin and formation of God's people - Israel - in the Old Testament and later in the New Testament.

Critical issues within academic circles are many, but some of the biggest deal with creation (e.g., two creation accounts, old/young earth hypotheses, *creatio ex nihilo*) and authorship (e.g., Mosaic, Documentary Hypothesis). These issues help to dig deeper into the theological implications on life and faith; for instance, understanding creation changes our understanding of God and ourselves. The Documentary Hypothesis helps us to reflect on the various contexts (i.e., *Sitz im Leben*) and how there are differences within the texts. At the same time, authorship issues can sometimes lead away from theological implications, especially when source criticism does not adequately consider the textual unity and overall message of the final form of Genesis. This can lead to faulty conclusions to faith that does not take seriously what the documents/bible says about itself.

3. Outline and discuss the character of Moses in the book of Exodus? What are some of the major themes of the book and how does life of Moses reflect these themes? What are some of the critical issues involved in the academic examination of the book of Exodus and the person of Moses? What are the strengths and weaknesses of these issues?

Outline of Moses in the book of Exodus (via Victor Hamilton, *Handbook on the Pentateuch*)

I) Moses as Infant and Refugee (Exodus 1-2)
    1) Birth and conferment of his name (2:1-10)
    2) Attempt as law enforcer, peacemaker, and his personal rebuff (2:11-15a)
    3) Flight to Midian and marriage (2:15b-22)

II) Moses meets God (Exodus 3-5)

III) Moses' call reconfirmed (Exodus 6)

IV) Moses' participation in God's salvation and exodus from Egypt (Exodus 7-18)
    1) Plagues (7-11)
    2) Passover (12:1-13:16)
    3) Exodus (13:17-15:21)
    4) Wilderness (15:22-18:27)

V) Moses' giving of God's Law and covenant (Exodus 19-24)
    1) Sinai covenant (19)
    2) Ten Commandments (20:1-21)
    3) Covenant stipulations (20:22-23:33)
    4) Covenant ratification (24:1-18)

VI) Moses as judge/leader and prophet (Exodus 25-40)
    1) Tabernacle instruction (25-31)
    2) Moses as mediator/intercessor (32-34)
    3) Tabernacle construction (35-40)

Victor Hamilton nicely summarizes the correlation between the themes of Exodus and the life of Moses: "In many ways the experiences of Moses in the first part of Exodus parallel the experiences of the Israelites in the latter portion of the book (Smith 1996: 38). Both flee from Egypt: Moses in ch. 2, Israel in ch. 12. Both come to a mountain where God speaks to them: Moses in ch. 3, Isreal in ch. 19. God calls Moses into his service in chs. 3-4 and renews that call in ch. 6 after the unsavory experiences of ch. 5; God offers a covenant relationship to his people in chs. 19-24 and renews that covenant in ch. 34 after the horrific experiences of ch. 32" [Victor Hamilton, *Handbook of the Pentateuch*]. Much of the above themes reflect God's revelation, salvation, and presence for and with the people of God. As above, these themes are often critically assessed in terms of authorship and historicity of the events. The strengths and weaknesses are also similar when it comes to thorough analysis of the scripture but faulty conclusions, primarily depending on one's faith orientation to the text as divinely inspired or not.

4. Discuss the character of Abraham as detailed in the book of Genesis. How much of 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?

It is interesting when one looks at the character of Abraham. In some measure, more than half of Genesis' content can be associated to Abraham (Genesis 12-50; in particular 12-25:11), especially when it comes to him being the covenant forbearer and the father of many nations (Genesis 12:2-3; 15:5; 17:4-5). He is often associated as being credited with righteousness due to his faith (Romans 3:27); and yet, Abraham can be viewed as being one on both sides of the spectrum in terms of faithfulness. He is seen as using Sarah, his wife, to protect his own life on two separate occasions (Genesis 12 and 20), and then, acquiescing/complicit in trying to have a child with Hagar instead of Sarah. Despite this, we see God's promise and God's faithfulness to bring about his promise in Abraham's life. Abraham received God's calling and left his father in Haran, rescued his nephew Lot, believed in God's covenant when revealed (15:6), interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah, and, after receiving Isaac, was willing to sacrifice him.

Abraham is a hero and an anti-hero, full of courage and wisdom in one moment while also showing fear and foolishness the next. In the end, God is the ultimate hero in Abraham's life and through Abraham's life to the rest of the world. We see how Abraham grows in confidence and assurance throughout Genesis, because God does not give up on Abraham and continues to direct him. Towards the end of Genesis, we get a glimpse of the blessing and promise of God (Genesis 1:28; 12:2-3; 15:5; 17:4-5) coming to fruition, literally, in the sheer number of his descendants going down to Egypt.

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

"The revelatory nature of the material in Leviticus is underlined by the fact that twenty of the twenty-seven chapters begin with the formula "the LORD said unto Moses." [Hamilton, 232]

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

"The first seven chapters of Leviticus are devoted to a description of the sacrifices ordained by God that bear on the perpetuation of the relationship of humankind with God." [Hamilton, 233]

3. In Leviticus 1-7, the **burnt** is the only offering that is given completely to YHWH. [Wenham, 85]

4. Leviticus like the names of the other books of the **Pentateuch** is borrowed from the Greek translation of the Bible. [Wenham, 81]

5. Leviticus **17:1-27:34** contains practicals prescriptions for holiness. [Wenham, 95-99]

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 ( ); **False (X)**

"The verbs used in these seven verses to describe Israel's growth in Egypt ("were fruitful, multiplied, became numerous, was filled with them") are simply the fulfillment of the promised blessings and mandates of God made to Adam (Gen. 1:28), Noah (Gen. 9:1, 7), Abraham (Gen. 13:16; 15:5; 17:2), and Jacob (Gen. 28:14; 46:3)." [Wenham, 137]

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.

Parallels in Moses' and Jacob's experiences [Hamilton, 141-142]

9. According to Hamilton, the divine purpose of the plagues is the following

a. ( ) The liberation of Israel
b. ( ) A display of the power of YHWH
c. ( ) To develop a belief in YHWH only
d. **(X) To aid Pharaoh, Egypt and the Israelites to acquire knowledge of the one True God**

"The divine purpose is that Pharaoh and his people - to say nothing of the Israelites - will indeed acquire knowledge of the true God." [Hamilton, 159]

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

True (X); False ( ) [Alexander, 187]

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

12. According to 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 [Alexander; in particular, 196-197]
d. ( ) None of the above
e. **(X) A, B and C**

13. According to Alexander, aspects of God's nature are highlighted by different **ways in which God may reveal himself**. [Alexander, 198]

14. According to Wenham, **El Shaddai** is the name that God used when He revealed Himself to the patriarchs. "But the easiest solution is to see the use of Yahweh in Genesis as making a theological point: the God who revealed himself to Moses with the name Yahweh was the same God whom the patriarchs knew by the name El Shaddai, God Almighty." [Wenham, 49]

15 . The most frequently occurring designation or name for God in the Old Testament is El. [Wenham, 49, 60]
True (X); False ( )

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)** [Hamilton, 178]

17. During the 3 month journey there were **at least four** crises for the Israelites. [Hamilton, 178]

18. According to Blenkinsopp the events in the Pentateuch cover the following amount of time:
a. ( ) 11 months
b. ( ) Approximately 3 thousand years.
c. ( ) 5 months
d. **(X) None of the above.**

"According to Blenkinsopp (1992:48), the events narrated over the Pentateuch cover 2,706 years. Only eleven months of these almost three millennia are spent at Sinai." [Hamilton, 184]

19. 8 of the 10 commandments are positive prohibitions.
True ( ) ; **False (X)** 8/10 are negative prohibitions [Hamilton, 188]

20. 8 of the 10 laws of the Decalogue are **negative apodictic (i.e., categorical) prohibitions**. [Hamilton, 188]