

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. Moral principles are applied to determine right from wrong in particular situations. Casuistic law is necessary because it is not possible to apply general commands directly to actual moral situations.

2. Apodictic law encompasses absolute general commands rendered from “on high” as thou shalt nots and as such has little application in the courts. The Ten Commandments are a prime example of apodictic law.

3. Code of Hammurabi is a collection of 282 rules, established standards for commercial interactions and set fines and punishments to meet the requirements of justice.

4. Suzerainty-vassal treaty is specifically the relationship between a suzerain and a vassal described in father-son language. This term often describes the relationship between God and Israel. In addition, in treaties the parties are often expected to love and know one another.

5. Holiness Code is a collection of secular, ritualistic, moral, and festival regulations in the Old Testament Book of Leviticus, chapters 17-26. The code stresses that the people of Israel are separated from the rest of the world because Yahweh (God) has chosen them.

6. Historiography is the study of historical writing or the writing of history.

7. 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.

8. 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.
9. Kathleen Kenyon was a British archaeologist of Neolithic culture in the Fertile Crescent. She led excavations of Tell es-Sultan, the site of ancient Jericho, from 1952 to 1958, and has been called one of the most influential archaeologists of the 20th century.
10. Jericho is a Palestinian city in the West Bank. It is located in the Jordan Valley, with the Jordan River to the east and Jerusalem to the west.
11. Iron Age is the final epoch of the three-age division of the prehistory and protohistory of humanity. It was preceded by the Stone Age.

12. Judge one who makes judgments and decrees for the people in the absence of a king.
13. Hittites were an ancient group of Indo-Europeans who moved into Asia Minor and formed an empire at Hattusa in Anatolia (modern Turkey) around 1600 BCE. The Hittite Empire reached great heights during the mid-1300s BCE, when it spread across Asia Minor, into the northern Levant and Upper Mesopotamia.
14. Concubine in polygamous societies a woman who lives with a man but has lower status than his wife or wives.
15. Pentateuch includes the first five books of the Hebrew Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The literal category of the Pentateuch reflects the traditional Jewish grouping of these books together as the Torah.
16. Hebron is a Palestinian city in the southern West Bank, 30 kilometers (19 mi) south of Jerusalem. Nestled in the Judaeen Mountains, it lies 930 metres (3,050 ft) above sea level.
17. Jael or Yael is a heroine in the Hebrew Bible's Book of Judges who delivers Israel from the army of King of Jabin of Canaan.
18. Tobit is a 3rd or early 2nd century BC Jewish work describing how GOD tests the faithful, responds to prayers, and protects the covenant community.
19. Herem or cherem as used in the Tanakh, means something given over to the Lord, or under a ban, and sometimes refers to things or persons to be utterly destroyed.
20. Tamar was the wife of Judah and also the mother of her twins Perez and Zerah.

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. The conceptual differences that define the worldview of the Ancient Near East are (1) people from the Ancient Near East are communal rather than individualistic in our modern western culture. (2) there is a strong importance of the theology of GOD in the Holy Bible as the only God, in the His

Triune form of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit who is the sole and only creator of the universe in which we exist in (merism). As opposed to the modern western worldview of adopting accepting many gods or the concept of the Big-Bang Theory. (3) The people of the Ancient Near East live in an agricultural society as opposed to the modern western world of inhabiting an industrial and technological society.

2. List the books and the major themes of the Pentateuch. Provide biblical passages that support each theme. The books of the Pentateuch are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. In Genesis or the book of origin of this universe the major theme is how we as individuals see how everything came about to be in existence including the heavens, the earth, the sea, the animals, plants, stars, sun, moon, vegetation, fruits, herbs and ultimately people. The Deity who is responsible for all of this creation is The LORD GOD ALMIGHTY in the person of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1). The major theme in the book of Exodus is the enslavement of the Israelites by the king of Egypt (Pharaoh) who God prophesied to Abraham back in the book of Genesis saying that Abraham's descendants will be slaves to a foreign nation for 400 years in which God will ultimately judge and punish that nation (Egypt). The Book of Exodus also highlights the 10 plagues that God sent to the Egyptians because Pharaoh's heart was hardened by God, therefore rendering God's judgments and wiping out the firstborn males of Egypt. Exodus also depicts the Passover when the death angel passed by the houses of the Israelites in Egypt because the blood of animals were sprinkled on the doorposts of the houses of Israel signifying to the death angel not to smite that house. The book of Exodus also highlights God writing and the Ten Commandments with his very fingers on Mount Sinai and giving them to Moses so that God's chosen people the Israelites can govern their moral lives by (Exodus 20). The major theme in the book of Leviticus is God's code of laws for the Levitical priesthood and how the priests from the tribe of Levi from the house of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu are to serve God in the priest office. The book of Numbers focuses on the children of Israel journey in the wilderness on their way to the promised land led by their leader Moses to the land of milk and honey which God promised them except for the house of Levi. However, the Israelites are intimidated by their enemies on the other side of where they are supposed to get to because in their perspective they see themselves as grasshoppers. Only Joshua and Caleb came back with a different report stating that they are well able to take the land after spying it out. The book of Deuteronomy begins and journeys with the continuation from the book of Numbers with the children of Israel on their way to inherit the land of Canaan which God promised them. However, because of their constant murmurings and complaints they wandered in the desert for 40 years which was supposed to be an 11 days journey. Moses also disobeys God by striking the rock rather than speaking to it resulting in him not being able to cross over to the promised land. Moses was able to go up to the mountain to see it at the age of 120 years with his natural forces not being abated. Finally, towards the end of the book of Deuteronomy Moses dies.

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

In the book of Judges the major themes are the fact that God's people do not have a king to lead them. Consequently, the people elect judges in place of kings to rule them. There is a Tishbite by the name of Samson's whose mother had difficulty conceiving him. However, God promised Samson's parents that He will give them a son and they are to name him Samson. Samson is never to drink strong drink or cut his hair. Throughout the book of Judges the Spirit of the Lord comes upon Samson and Samson is endowed with an immeasurable amount of supernatural strength where the Scriptures states he kills the jawbone of an ass. Samson defeats many of his enemies who are the Philistines during the era of the Judges. However, Samson's weakness is that he has a lustful achilles heel for women. Especially, women who are not Israelites and whom his parents do not approve of. One day, Samson encounters a woman who is fascinated by his uncanny strength. This woman is Delilah. Samson is very attracted to Delilah. Delilah repeatedly asks Samson where does he gets his strength from by continuously asking him a series of riddles. Delilah was sent by Samson's enemies in order to bring his demise. Samson eventually tells Delilah that if his hair is cut then he will lose his strength. While Samson is asleep, Delilah cuts off his locks and Samson is weak and loses his God-given supernatural strength. The Philistines gouges out or rips off the two sockets of Samson's eyeballs. Eventually, Samson's locks grows back and he wipes out a huge two huge columns in a collesseum and defeats more of his enemies than he ever did in his lifetime. As a result, Samson dies in the destruction in the temple. At the end of Judges the people decide to do whatever is right in their own eyes which is a sin.

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.+True
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).+True
14. Hebron, as David's original power base, plays an important role in the actions of Solomon_____.
15. The natural environment in which the early Israelite families established their farmsteads was far less friendly than the popular imagination supposes.
 True: (+) False
16. In most villages herding and farming involved only the men. (+) True: False
17. One important roles of the mother that was not gender specific was her responsibility as thematriach 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. (+) 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 suzerain_____or vassal treaty_____ in motion.

