

Final Exam- CB 39 Fall 2013

The exam has four parts.

Part one. 10 of 13 IDs/short answers (25%). (If you do more than 10, only the first ten will be graded).

1. Seven Canaanite nations
2. Merneptah stele
3. Sin of Manasseh
4. Sin of Jeroboam
5. Centralization of the cult
6. "The parents have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are blunted/ set on edge."
7. Vineyard of Naboth
8. Valley of dry bones
9. Suffering servant
10. The Lion's Den
11. "curse God and die"
12. New Testament (new covenant)
13. Cosmic dualism

Part two: Identify the source, explain the meaning, and *assess the significance*, of five biblical passages. (25%). Five of seven.

1. ¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to the whole Israelite community and say to them: You shall be holy, for I, the LORD your God, am holy. ³You shall each revere his mother and his father, and keep My sabbaths: I the LORD am your God. ⁴Do not turn to idols or make molten gods for yourselves: I the LORD am your God. ⁵When you sacrifice an offering of well-being to the LORD, sacrifice it so that it may be accepted on your behalf. ⁶It shall be eaten on the day you sacrifice it, or on the day following; but what is left by the third day must be consumed in fire. ⁷If it should be eaten on the third day, it is an offensive thing, it will not be acceptable. ⁸And he who eats of it shall bear his guilt, for he has profaned what is sacred to the LORD; that person shall be cut off from his kin.
2. ²⁵When you have begotten children and children's children and are long established in the land, should you act wickedly and make for yourselves a sculptured image in any likeness, causing the LORD your God displeasure and vexation, ²⁶ I call heaven and earth this day to witness against you that you shall soon perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess; you shall

not long endure in it, but shall be utterly wiped out. ²⁷ The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and only a scant few of you shall be left among the nations to which the LORD will drive you. ²⁸ There you will serve man-made gods of wood and stone, that cannot see or hear or eat or smell. ²⁹ But if you search there for the LORD your God, you will find Him, if only you seek Him with all your heart and soul — ³⁰ when you are in distress because all these things have befallen you and, in the end, return to the LORD your God and obey Him. ³¹ For the LORD your God is a compassionate God: He will not fail you nor will He let you perish; He will not forget the covenant which He made on oath with your fathers.

3. “The LORD declares to you that He, the LORD, will establish a house for you. ¹² When your days are done and you lie with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own issue, and I will establish his kingship. ¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish his royal throne forever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to Me. When he does wrong, I will chastise him with the rod of men and the affliction of mortals; ¹⁵ but I will never withdraw My favor from him as I withdrew it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingship shall ever be secure before you; your throne shall be established forever.”

4. Hear the word of the LORD, You chieftains of Sodom; Give ear to our God's instruction, You folk of Gomorrah!¹¹“What need have I of all your sacrifices?” Says the LORD.“I am sated with burnt offerings of rams, And suet of fatlings, And blood of bulls; And I have no delight In lambs and he-goats.¹²That you come to appear before Me — Who asked that of you? Trample My courts ¹³no more; Bringing oblations is futile, Incense is offensive to Me. New moon and sabbath, Proclaiming of solemnities, Assemblies with iniquity, I cannot abide. ¹⁴Your new moons and fixed seasons Fill Me with loathing; They are become a burden to Me, I cannot endure them.¹⁵And when you lift up your hands, I will turn My eyes away from you; Though you pray at length, I will not listen. Your hands are stained with crime.¹⁶Wash yourselves clean; Put your evil doings Away from My sight. Cease to do evil;¹⁷Learn to do good. Devote yourselves to justice; Aid the wronged. Uphold the rights of the orphan; Defend the cause of the widow.

5. ¹But a shoot shall grow out of the stump of Jesse, A twig shall sprout from his stock.²The spirit of the LORD shall alight upon him: A spirit of wisdom and insight, A spirit of counsel and valor, A spirit of devotion and reverence for the LORD.³He shall sense the truth by his reverence for the LORD: He shall not judge by what his eyes behold, Nor decide by what his ears perceive.⁴— Thus he shall judge the poor with equity And decide with justice for the lowly of the land...⁵Justice shall be the girdle of his loins, And faithfulness the girdle of his waist.⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard lie down with the kid;

The calf, the beast of prey, and the fatling together, With a little boy to herd them.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, Their young shall lie down together; And the lion, like the ox, shall eat straw.⁸A babe shall play Over a viper's hole, And an infant pass his hand Over an adder's den.⁹In all of My sacred mount Nothing evil or vile shall be done; For the land shall be filled with devotion to the LORD As water covers the sea.

6. ⁴Thus said the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, to the whole community which I exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat their fruit. ⁶Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters. Multiply there, do not decrease. ⁷And seek the welfare of the city to which I have exiled you and pray to the LORD in its behalf; for in its prosperity you shall prosper... ¹⁰For thus said the LORD: When Babylon's seventy years are over, I will take note of you, and I will fulfill to you My promise of favor – to bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I am mindful of the plans I have made concerning you – declares the LORD – plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a hopeful future. ¹²When you call Me, and come and pray to Me, I will give heed to you. ¹³You will search for Me and find Me, if only you seek Me wholeheartedly. ¹⁴I will be at hand for you – declares the LORD – and I will restore your fortunes. And I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places to which I have banished you – declares the LORD – and I will bring you back to the place from which I have exiled you.
7. ¹Why, O God, do You forever reject us, do You fume in anger at the flock that You tend? ²Remember the community You made Yours long ago, Your very own tribe that You redeemed, Mount Zion, where You dwell... ⁴Your foes roar inside Your meeting-place ... ⁷They made Your sanctuary go up in flames; they brought low in dishonor the dwelling-place of Your presence.⁸They resolved, "Let us destroy them altogether!" They burned all God's tabernacles in the land.⁹No signs appear for us; there is no longer any prophet; no one among us knows for how long.¹⁰Till when, O God, will the foe blaspheme, will the enemy forever revile Your name? ¹¹Why do You hold back Your hand, Your right hand? Draw it out of Your bosom! ¹²O God, my King from of old, who brings deliverance throughout the land;¹³it was You who drove back the sea with Your might, who smashed the heads of the monsters in the waters; ¹⁴it was You who crushed the heads of Leviathan, who left him as food for the denizens of the desert; ¹⁵it was You who released springs and torrents, who made mighty rivers run dry;¹⁶the day is Yours, the night also; it was You who set in place the orb of the sun;¹⁷You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; summer and winter – You made them.

Part three: general non-essay: drawing on material *from the entire course*. Answer either A or B.

A. Is the Hebrew Bible a single coherent thing or not? That is, does it have a point, a thesis, an argument, or is it a chaotic assembly of this and that, bits and pieces that have little to do with each other? In your answer, be specific. Explain the criteria by which you are constructing your answer; acknowledge too the arguments on the other side of the question.

B. In general, is the Bible "objective" or is it "ideological?" Does the Bible have biases? If so, what are some of the most important? What alternative points of view can we reconstruct or imagine existing in ancient Israel and Judah concerning the Bible's subject matter?

Part four: specific non-essay: drawing on material from the second half of the course. Answer either A or B or C:

- A. What are the distinctive features of P and D? How do they conceive of God and the community of God's worshipers (=Israel)? According to each, what demands does God make of the Israelites, and how should they fulfill those demands?
- B. What is the significance of the literary prophets? What is their message? Do the prophets oppose the ritual of the Temple? Why do the prophets spend so much time talking to/about the nations? What does the future hold according to the prophets?
- C. What is Wisdom Literature? What are its major characteristics and concerns? Does Wisdom Literature affirm or undercut traditional Israelite beliefs about God?