

## MIDTERM EXAM INSTRUCTIONS (Fall 2013)

The midterm exam covers material from the beginning of the course through session 11 (W Oct 9) (and the review session F Oct 18).

The midterm exam will consist of:

1. 5 IDs (drawn from the ID list) and a blank basic time line – fill in the time line. (20%)
2. Explain the meaning, and *assess the significance*, of five biblical passages (not more than one paragraph apiece). The passages will be drawn from any of the following texts: (40%)
  - Genesis 1:1-2:3, 3; 4; 6:1-7; 9; 15; 17; 22; 27; 41; 48; 49
  - Exodus 1; 3:1-4:17; 6:2; 12; 14; 15; 19; 20; 31:18-32:35; 34
3. One non-essay. Begin with a thesis statement, if appropriate; then write an outline or bullet points, and only enough prose so that your meaning is clear. The non-essay will be one of the following. (The exam will present only one of the following questions; you may of course try to guess which one I will choose, but the prudent among you will prepare answers for all of them.) In your non-essay cite specific passages from the Bible to back up your assertions, as well as relevant material from Kugel, and the lectures. (40%)

Non-essay questions:

1. What are the major points of conflict between a modern academic reading of the Torah and a traditionalist reading? On what assumptions is each of them based? What are the strong points of each mode of reading? Weak points?
2. Do you think that the stories in Genesis 2-4 (the Garden of Eden, expulsion from the Garden, Cain and Abel) were intended by their author(s) to explain “the fall of man (humanity),” that is, human mortality and the effect of sin?
3. Is the flood story (Genesis 6-8) a unified narrative, or was it put together out of pre-existing pieces? (Or do you have a third alternative?)
4. What are the major issues involved in assessing the historicity of the Exodus from Egypt? What evidence has been found apart from the Bible itself to confirm or contradict the biblical account?
5. What is the point of the *Aqedah* story (Genesis 22)?

DATE AND TIME OF THE EXAM: Mon Oct 21st in our regular classroom 10AM-11AM. (If you want extra time, arrive at 9:30am; we need to finish promptly by 11am.)

*Don't forget to write your name and the name of your TF on your exam booklet.*